

Austerity Inches Closer

Sides remain entrenched at budget-cuts deadline

Ominous clouds hang over the U.S. Capitol in Washington, March 1, 2013. President Barack Obama and Congressional leaders failed to reach a last-minute deal on the budget impasse, meaning that automatic cuts set to take effect on Friday could stay in place for weeks if not months.

DAVID ESPO
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — Gridlocked once more, President Barack Obama and Republican congressional leaders refused to budge in their budget standoff Friday as \$85 billion in across-

the-board spending cuts bore down on individual Americans and the nation's still-recovering economy. "None of this is necessary," said the president after a sterile White House meeting that portended a long

standoff. Even before Obama formally ordered the cuts required by midnight, their impact was felt thousands of miles away. In Seattle, the King County Housing Authority announced it had stopped

issuing housing vouchers under a federal program that benefits "elderly or disabled households, veterans, and families with children."

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FORT HOOD SUSPECT MAY PLEAD GUILTY

ANGELA K. BROWN
Associated Press
FORT HOOD, Texas (AP) — An Army psychiatrist may soon admit to and describe a deadly 2009 shooting at a Texas military post that killed 13 people. Maj. Nidal Hasan would be required to describe his actions and answer questions about the Nov. 5, 2009, attack at Fort Hood if the judge allows him to plead guilty to the lesser charges, as his attorneys have said he wants to do. Any plea, which could happen at the next hear-



Nidal Malik Hasan, charged in the 2009 Fort Hood shooting rampage.
 (AP Photo/USUHS)

ing in March, won't stop the much-anticipated court-martial set to begin May 29. He faces the death penalty or life in prison without parole if convicted of 13 counts of premeditated murder. Under military law, a judge can't accept a guilty plea for charges that carry the death penalty. Hasan's lawyers have said he is ready to plead guilty to charges of unpremeditated murder, which don't carry a possible death sentence, as well as the 32 attempted premeditated murder charges he faces.

Continued on Page 3

Judge: Half of \$1 billion Apple awarded from Samsung patent trial invalidated

SAN JOSE, California (AP)

— A federal judge on Friday erased nearly half of the \$1 billion in damages that a jury decided that Samsung Electronics should pay Apple in a high-profile trial over the smartphone and tablet computer patents. The motion came the same day Samsung unveiled new products and services at their Samsung Forum 2013 in Hyderabad, India.

U.S. District Court Judge Lucy Koh lowered the damages awarded to Apple Inc. by \$450.5 million, saying jurors had not properly followed her instruction in calculating some of the

damages. The ruling reduced Samsung Electronics' bill to just under \$599 million. Koh also ordered a new trial on Apple's allegations that Samsung stole its ideas for more than a dozen different smartphones and tablet computers.

The jury decided last year that Samsung ripped off the innovative technology used by Apple to create its revolutionary iPhone and iPad and ordered Samsung to pay Apple \$1.05 billion in the latest skirmish of a global legal battle between the two tech giants.

Apple filed its patent infringement lawsuit in April 2011 and engaged legions

of the country's highest-paid patent lawyers to demand \$2.5 billion from its top smartphone competitor. Samsung Electronics Co. fired back with its own lawsuit seeking \$399 million. The jury found that several Samsung products illegally used such Apple creations as the "bounce-back" feature when a user scrolls to an end image, and the ability to zoom text with a tap of a finger.

The case is ultimately expected to land before the U.S. Federal Circuit Court of Appeals, the Washington-based court that decides patent disputes, if not the U.S. Supreme Court. □



A visitor stands beside a giant banner during the Samsung Forum 2013 in Hyderabad, India, Friday, March 1, 2013. Samsung unveiled new products and services at the forum.

(AP Photo/Mahesh Kumar A.)

Chad: Al-Qaida chief killed in Mali

**A. CHARLTON
DANY PADIRE
Associated Press**

N'DJAMENA, Chad (AP)

— Chadian President Idriss Deby announced Friday that Chadian troops fighting to dislodge an al-Qaida affiliate in northern Mali killed one of the group's leading commanders, Abou Zeid.

The death of the Algerian warlord, a feared radical leader of al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb behind the kidnapping of several Westerners, could not immediately be verified. His death would be a big blow to his group and its growing

influence in North and West Africa.

Officials in Mali and in France, which is leading an international military intervention in Mali against Islamic extremists linked to AQIM, could not confirm the death.

The Chadian president's spokesman said that Deby announced the death of Abou Zeid during a ceremony Friday for Chadian soldiers killed in fighting in Mali. The spokesman insisted on anonymity because he was not authorized to speak ahead of an announcement on state television on the matter. He

gave no further details.

The French military moved into Mali on Jan. 11 to push back al-Qaida-linked militants who had imposed harsh Islamic rule in the vast country and who were seen as an international terrorist threat. The extremists took control over northern Mali in a power vacuum after a coup last year, and had started moving toward the capital.

France is trying to rally other African troops to help in the military campaign, since Mali's military is weak and poor. Chadian troops have offered the most robust reinforcement. □

Leaving North Korea, Rodman proclaims Kims 'great leaders'

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)

— Ending his unexpected round of basketball diplomacy in North Korea on Friday, ex-NBA star Dennis Rodman called leader Kim Jong Un an "awesome guy" and said his father and grandfather were "great leaders" — an assessment that got short shrift from the U.S. government.

Rodman, the highest-profile American to meet Kim since he inherited power from father Kim Jong Il in 2011, watched a basketball game with the authoritarian leader Thursday and later drank and dined on sushi with him.

At Pyongyang's Sunan airport on his way to Beijing, Rodman said it was "amazing" that the North Koreans were "so honest." He added that Kim Jong Il and Kim Il Sung, North Korea's founder, "were great leaders."

"He's proud, his country likes him — not like him, love him, love him," Rodman said of Kim Jong Un. "Guess what, I love him. The guy's really awesome."

At Beijing's airport, Rodman pushed past waiting journalists without saying anything.

Rodman's visit to North Korea began Monday and took place amid tension between Washington and Pyongyang.

North Korea conducted an underground nuclear test just two weeks ago, making clear the provocative act was a warning to the United States to drop what it considers a "hostile" policy toward the North.

The State Department on Friday distanced itself from Rodman's visit and his praise for Kim, saying he doesn't represent the United States.

"The North Korean regime has a horrific human rights record, quite possibly the worst human rights situation in the world," spokesman Patrick Ventrell told reporters in Washington. He accused the regime of depriving their people of food, shelter, water and maintaining prison gulags.

Ventrell also took aim at Pyongyang for its grand treatment of the visiting basketball stars.

"Clearly you've got the regime spending money to wine and dine foreign visitors, when they should be feeding their own people," he said.

Rodman traveled to Pyongyang with three members of the professional Harlem Globetrot-



Former NBA star Dennis Rodman speaks to the media at the Pyongyang Airport in Pyongyang, before he leaves North Korea Friday, March 1, 2013.

(AP Photo/Kyodo News)

ters basketball team, VICE correspondent Ryan Duffy and a production crew to shoot an episode on North Korea for a new weekly HBO series.

Kim, a diehard basketball fan, told the former Detroit Pistons and Chicago Bulls star that he hoped the visit would break the ice between the United States and North Korea, said Shane Smith, founder of the New York-based VICE media company.

Dressed in a blue Mao suit, Kim laughed and slapped his hands on a table during the game at Jong Ju Yong Gymnasium as he sat nearly knee to knee with Rodman.

Rodman, the man who once turned up in a wedding dress to promote his autobiography, wore a dark suit and dark sunglasses, but still had on his nose rings and other piercings.

A can of Coca-Cola sat on the table before him in photos shared with AP by VICE. □

State Dept: No major objections to Canada pipeline

DINA CAPIELLO
MATTHEW DALY

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The State Department on Friday raised no major objections to the Keystone XL oil pipeline and said other options to get the oil from Canada to Gulf Coast refineries are worse for climate change. But the latest environmental review stops short of recommending whether the project should be approved. State Department approval of the 1,700-mile (2,735-kilometer) pipeline is needed because it crosses a U.S. border.

The lengthy report says Canadian tar sands are likely to be developed, regardless of whether the U.S. approves Keystone XL, which would carry oil from western Canada to refineries in Texas. The pipeline would also travel through Montana, South Dakota, Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma. The report acknowledges that development of tar sands in Alberta would create greenhouse gases but makes clear that other methods to transport the oil — including rail, trucks and barges — also pose a risk to the environment.

The State Department analysis for the first time evaluated two options using rail: shipping the oil on trains to existing pipelines or to oil tankers. The report shows that those other methods would release more greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming than the pipeline. The Keystone XL pipeline, according to the report, would release annually the same amount of global warming pollution as 626,000 passenger cars. A scenario that would move the oil on trains to mostly existing pipelines would release 8 percent more greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide than Keystone XL. That scenario would not require State Department approval because any new pipelines would not cross the U.S. border.

Another alternative that relies mostly on rail to move

the oil to the Canadian west coast, where it would be loaded onto oil tankers to the U.S. Gulf Coast, would result in 17 percent more greenhouse gas emissions, the report said. In both alternatives, the oil would be shipped in rail cars as bitumen, a thick, tar-like substance, rather than as a liquid.

The State Department was required to conduct a new environmental analysis after the pipeline's operator, Calgary-based TransCanada, changed the project's route through Nebraska. The Obama administration blocked the project last year because of concerns that the original route would have jeopardized environmentally sensitive land in the Sand Hills region.

The administration later approved a southern section of the pipeline, from Cushing, Oklahoma, to the Texas coast, as part of what President Barack Obama has called an "all of the above" energy policy that embraces a wide range of sources, from oil and gas to

renewables such as wind and solar. The pipeline plan has become a flashpoint in the U.S. debate over climate change. Republicans and

been pressuring the president to reject the pipeline, saying it would carry "dirty oil" that contributes to global warming. They also worry about a spill.

times KXL is reviewed, the result is the same: no significant environmental impact," said Marty Durbin, executive vice president of the American Petroleum



Protestors march in front of the White House in Washington during a rally calling on President Barack Obama to reject the Keystone XL oil pipeline from Canada.

(AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

business and labor groups have urged the Obama administration to approve the pipeline as a source of much-needed jobs and a step toward North American energy independence.

Environmental groups have

Industry groups and Republicans hailed the report, saying the Obama administration was moving closer to approving Keystone XL, which has been under consideration since 2008.

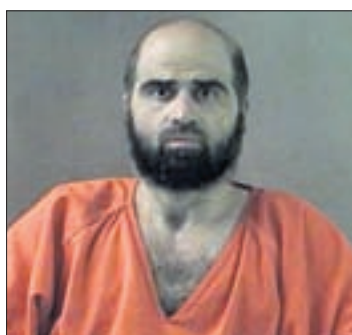
"No matter how many

Institute, the largest lobbying group for the oil and gas industry.

The report "puts this important, job-creating project one step closer to reality," Durbin said.

Environmentalists blasted the report. □

Fort Hood suspect Hasan may plead guilty



Nidal Malik Hasan, charged in the 2009 Fort Hood shooting rampage.

(AP Photo/BCSD)

Continued from front

If the judge, Col. Tara Osborn, allows him to plead guilty, she will hold an inquiry in which Hasan must discuss the attack. If he says anything that isn't consistent with what happened or indicates he isn't truly acknowledging his guilt, the judge would stop the hearing and not accept his guilty plea, according to military law experts. He is not required to apologize

or say that he is remorseful. Some military law experts say it's a legal strategy designed to gain jurors' sympathy so that they might not sentence him to death if he's convicted later.

"The judge has to make sure he's pleading guilty willingly and that this isn't a ploy," Jeff Addicott, director of the Center for Terrorism Law at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, said Friday.

A Senate report released in 2011 said the FBI missed warning signs about Hasan, alleging he had become an Islamic extremist and a "ticking time bomb" before the attack at Fort Hood. It's unclear if Hasan would discuss his motivation, but the judge must determine if he is sincere in pleading guilty or is simply trying to avoid the death penalty, said Addicott, who is not involved in Hasan's case.

Addicott said the judge will

be even more thorough during the inquiry because Hasan is a psychiatrist who is "highly intelligent and knows how to manipulate human thinking."

Witnesses have said that after lunch on Nov. 5, 2009, a gunman wearing an Army combat uniform shouted "Allahu Akbar!" — "God is great!" in Arabic — and opened fire in a crowded medical building where deploying soldiers get vaccines and other tests. He fired rapidly, pausing only to reload, even shooting at some soldiers as they hid under desks and fled the building, according to witnesses.

When it was over, investigators found 146 shell casings on the floor, another 68 outside the building and 177 unused rounds of ammunition in the gunman's pockets. Authorities and several witnesses identified the gunman as Hasan,

an American-born Muslim who was to deploy to Afghanistan soon.

Greg Rinckey, a former military defense attorney not involved in Hasan's case, said pleading guilty without a deal may signal to the judge that the government is being unreasonable by proceeding with a trial.

He also said Hasan's attorneys have few, if any, options for a defense.

"His attorneys know he's going to be convicted at trial, so why not get some brownie points?" said Rinckey, a New York attorney who specializes in military law. "But once they admit to it, it's harder to appeal."

Hasan's trial is expected to last through September. Prosecutors have nearly 300 witnesses, including a terrorism expert who will testify that Hasan is a homegrown terrorist. □

Sides remain entrenched at budget-cuts deadline

Continued from front

The president met with top lawmakers for less than an hour at the White House, then sought repeatedly to fix the blame on Republicans for the broad spending reductions and any damage that they inflict. "They've allowed these cuts to happen because they refuse to budge on closing a single wasteful loophole to help reduce the deficit," he said, renewing his demand for a comprehensive deficit-cutting deal that includes higher taxes.

Republicans said they wanted deficit cuts, too, but not tax increases. "The president got his tax hikes on Jan. 1," House Speaker John Boehner told reporters, a reference to a \$600 billion increase on higher wage earners that cleared Congress on the first day of the year. Now, he said after the meeting, it is time take

on "the spending problem here in Washington."

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky was equally emphatic. "I will not be part of any back-room deal, and I will absolutely not agree to increase taxes," he vowed in a written statement.

At the same time they clashed, Obama and Republicans appeared determined to contain their disagreement.

Boehner said the House will pass legislation next week to extend routine funding for government agencies beyond the current March 27 expiration. "I'm hopeful that we won't have to deal with the threat of a government shutdown while we're dealing with the sequester at the same time," he said, referring to the new cuts by their Washington-speak name.

Obama said he, too, wanted to keep the two issues separate.

White House officials declined to say precisely when the president would

to call them off, the impact eventually is likely to be felt in all reaches of the coun-

tween now and the end of the budget year on Sept 30, exposing civilian workers to furloughs and defense contractors to possible cancellations. Said Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, only a few days on the job: "We will continue to ensure America's security" despite the challenge posed by an "unnecessary budget crisis."

The administration also has warned of long lines at airports as security personnel are furloughed, of teacher layoffs in some classrooms and adverse impacts on maintenance at the nation's parks.

The announcement by the housing agency in Seattle was an early indication of what is likely to hit as the cuts take effect. It said it was taking the action "to cope with the impending reduction in federal funding," adding that it normally issues 45 to 50 vouchers per month. □



A two-photo combo of President Barack Obama and House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) speaking to reporters regarding sequestration, in Washington, March 1, 2013. After meeting with Congressional leaders Friday, Obama discussed the possible impact of spending cuts poised to go into effect by the end of the day.

(Stephen Crowley/The New York Times)

formally order the cuts. Under the law, he had until midnight. Barring a quick deal in the next week or so

try. The Pentagon will absorb half of the \$85 billion required to be sliced be-

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1 dead in shooting outside rapper's bus in US

PATRICK WALTERS

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Philadelphia police said Friday they're seeking witnesses after a gunman fired into a crowd of people surrounding the tour bus of Moroccan-born rapper French Montana, killing one person and injuring another, and prompting others in the crowd to return fire.

The shooting happened late Thursday night as the bus, followed by several cars loaded with friends and family, arrived at a hotel for a post-concert party after the rapper had headlined a sold-out show at the Theatre of Living Arts.

A black sedan with tinted windows pulled up and someone fired shots into the crowd from a passenger side window, Homicide Capt. James Clark said. Two people in the crowd fired back, Clark said, and police were mulling whether to file charges against them.

The New York rapper and members of his entourage were interviewed at police headquarters and are cooperating in the investigation, but police don't know if they were targeted, Clark said.

On Friday evening, French Montana took to Twitter to express sympathy for the victims. He also tweeted that his bus was merely located "in the vicinity of the incident."

"I had a peaceful concert



French Montana on stage at the BET Awards in Los Angeles. A driver opened fire on a crowd of people surrounding the tour bus of rapper French Montana after a concert Thursday, Feb. 28, 2013 in Philadelphia, killing one person and injuring another, according to police.

(AP Photo/Matt Sayles)

and was not involved," he wrote. Investigators are searching for any surveillance footage that may provide clues.

"We believe someone saw something," Clark said. "It could have been a lot more tragic."

The man killed was identified by police as 26-year-old Jowann King. Police did not release the name of

the man who was injured. French Montana, a Moroccan-born rapper whose real name is Karim Kharbouch, posted a photo on Twitter showing a police officer interviewing a person after the shooting, and also posted photos of himself with Philadelphia rapper Meek Mill at the show.

Mill was on the tour bus Thursday night, Clark said. Montana was scheduled to play Brighton Music Hall in Boston on Friday night as part of a tour to promote his upcoming debut album, "Excuse My French," which features Nicki Minaj. However, the venue's website posted a notice Friday evening saying the show was canceled.

Last month, three people were killed and five injured in a shootout and crash on the Las Vegas strip; police think that shootout may have started as an argument at the valet area of the upscale Aria resort-casino the same night Montana was playing at Aria's signature nightclub, Haze. □

Holmes may plead insanity

CENTENNIAL, Colorado (AP) — Lawyers for the Colorado theater shooting suspect who killed 12 people during a showing of the latest Batman film "The Dark Knight Rises" have indicated their client might plead not guilty by reason of insanity.

In court documents made public Friday, James Holmes' attorneys want the judge to declare portions of the state's insanity defense laws unconstitutional.

The filings say the laws in which a defendant may waive their right to remain silent and reveal confidential medical information should be unconstitutional in cases involving the possibility of execution.

Holmes is charged with multiple counts of first-degree murder and attempted murder in the July 20 Aurora theater shooting that killed 12 people and wounded 70.

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Soldier's WikiLeaks admission buoys supporters

BEN NUCKOLS
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) —

While it may be a curious legal strategy, a U.S. Army private's decision to admit in court that he sent hundreds of thousands of classified documents to WikiLeaks has energized his supporters around the world. Pfc. Bradley Manning, 25, has been called by some a whistleblowing hero, a political prisoner and a symbol of the misplaced priorities of the U.S. military and the Obama administration. Others, particularly in the United States, view him as a traitor. Regardless of his motives, he appears likely to spend many years in a military prison.

At the very least, Manning likely ended speculation that he leaked the largest trove of classified material in U.S. history wantonly or unknowingly.

At a court hearing Thursday, Manning read a 35-page statement describing his internal deliberations about whether to send the first batch of hundreds of thousands of battlefield reports from Iraq and Afghanistan. He said he was trying to expose the American military's disregard for human life and provoke a public debate about U.S. military and foreign policy. "I felt this sense of relief by them having it," Manning said Thursday of WikiLeaks. "I felt I had accomplished something that allowed me to have a clear conscience."

Jeff Paterson of the Bradley Manning Support Network,

which has raised more than \$900,000 for Manning's legal defense, said the statement confirmed what supporters have long thought of him.



Army Pfc. Bradley Manning, back center, is escorted into a courthouse in Fort Meade, Md., Friday, March 1, 2013, before a pretrial military hearing.

harm the United States, although the diplomatic cables would be embarrassing. The Obama administration has said it threatened valuable military and

"We've been defending this person as a heroic whistleblower for 2 1/2 years now, and it was inspiring and it was motivating to finally hear in his own words why he made this life-changing and possibly history-changing decision," Paterson said.

Besides the battlefield reports, he sent WikiLeaks hundreds of thousands of State Department diplomatic cables, detainee records from the military prison at Guantanamo Bay and other classified records. He also released a 2007 combat video of a U.S. helicopter assault that killed 11 men, including a Reuters news photographer.

Manning said he did not think the material would

(AP Photo/Patrick Semansky)

diplomatic sources and strained relations with other governments.

Gabriel Schoenfeld, a fellow at the conservative Hudson Institute and the author of "Necessary Secrets," said Manning made a brash decision to release the State Department cables and should be punished for it.

"He said nothing he put out, he thought was damaging to the United States. I would beg to differ with that," Schoenfeld said. "He wasn't in a position to evaluate the damage."

But Schoenfeld doesn't think Manning was guilty of his most serious charge, aiding the enemy. "I don't think that was his intention," he said.

Manning's supporters say

the documents exposed war crimes. They also credit a State Department cable indicating that the U.S. would not back former Tunisian president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali with helping spark the pro-democracy Arab Spring uprisings in 2010.

"I think he really deserves great credit for his courage and for doing the right thing," said Daniel Ellsberg, who leaked the Pentagon Papers revealing that the U.S. had deceived the public about the Vietnam War. "I hope people will see these quotes and realize how well-motivated he was." Military justice experts say it's unclear whether Manning will derive any benefit from pleading guilty to offenses that carry a maximum 20-year sentence. He admitted guilt without the benefit of a deal with prosecutors — known in military parlance as a "naked plea."

After the judge accepted the plea, prosecutors announced that they would go forward with the remaining charges. Aiding the enemy, an offense that has not been brought to trial in decades, carries a maximum life sentence. Manning is also charged with violating federal espionage laws and theft counts that carry decades in prison.

Eugene Fidell, who teaches military justice at Yale University and has followed the Manning case, said Manning gained little by pleading guilty without a deal. □

Hagel vows budget cuts won't erode US military

ROBERT BURNS
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon will not let an impending \$46 billion in budget cuts erode U.S. military power, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said Friday. He said the cuts will "cause pain" but insisted that they can be managed without hurting national security. At his first news conference since taking over for Leon Panetta as Pentagon chief, Hagel struck a more relaxed tone about the budget reductions, which are part of \$85 billion in government-wide spending cuts that were taking effect Friday at midnight.

Whereas Panetta had warned of "catastrophic" effects that could reduce America to the status of a "second-rate" military power, Hagel said he believed the budget crisis can be managed in ways that do not put U.S. national security in jeopardy.

Hagel said the U.S. is "the best fighting force, the most capable fighting force, the most powerful fighting force in the world. The management of this institution, starting with the Joint Chiefs, are not going to allow this capacity to erode." Shortly before meeting with reporters, Hagel met for a little over an hour with the chiefs of each of the services, plus the chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Gen. Martin Dempsey, to discuss budget issues. □



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Automakers report growing US sales in February

DEE-ANN DURBIN

TOM KRISHER

AP Auto Writers

DETROIT (AP) — Americans want new cars and trucks, and they're not going to let higher gas prices or political dysfunction in Washington stand in their way. General Motors, Toyota, Ford and most other automakers posted at least modest sales gains for February. Industry analysts estimate last month's sales rose about 7 percent from a year earlier as pent-up demand and cheap financing kept the U.S. auto sales recovery powering along. GM sales rose 7 percent, while Ford's increased 9 percent. Chrysler and Volkswagen also reported increases, but both slowed from the torrid pace of the past two years. Chrysler sales were up 4 percent

over a year earlier, while VW sales were up 3 percent. Toyota sales were up just over 4 percent, while Hyundai posted a 2 percent gain. Of the major automakers, Nissan and Honda were down. Nissan sales were off almost 7 percent from a record February of 2012, while Honda blamed its 2 percent drop on the winter snowstorm in the Northeast. Auto industry analysts say that higher Social Security taxes, rising gas prices and looming government spending cuts failed to keep buyers away from showrooms. "I think these little speed bumps aren't big enough to slow down the momentum right now," said Jeff Schuster, senior vice president of forecasting for LMC Automotive, an industry consulting firm.

That momentum comes from a number of factors, including the need to replace aging cars and trucks, historically low interest rates and steady improvement in hiring and hourly pay.

But while sales for 2013 are

expected to top last year's figures, monthly increases are likely to be smaller than the double-digit gains the industry has regularly posted as sales recovered from historic lows following the recession. Still, GM's sales were the best since Feb-

ruary of 2008, led by the Chevrolet Silverado pickup with an increase of 29 percent. Kurt McNeil, the company's U.S. sales chief, said the recovery in new home construction is helping to boost the economy and pickup sales. When home construction thrives, businesses tend to invest more to replace vehicles. The average age of a U.S. pickup truck is just over 11 years. Ford also reported strong sales of its F-Series pickups, up 15 percent. The company also posted record February totals for the Escape SUV and Fusion sedan. Fusion sales were up 28 percent and Escape sales rose 29 percent. Together, the Escape and Fusion made up more than a quarter of Ford's monthly sales. Ford also said it plans to increase North American production by 9 percent in the second quarter compared with the second quarter of 2012.

At Chrysler, which reported a 21 percent sales increase for all of last year, the growth slowdown was expected. CEO Sergio Marchionne has warned that first-quarter sales would decline, largely because the company stopped making the Jeep Liberty midsize SUV as it prepares a factory in Toledo, Ohio, to build a replacement model. The new Jeep Cherokee is expected to hit showrooms in the summer. Still, the company reported its 35th-straight month of year-over-year sales gains. Volkswagen reported its best February since 1973, but sales were far off the pace of VW's 31 percent increase last year. □



Meredith Havens looks at Volkswagens at a dealership in Richardson, Texas. Industry analysts expect February's sales to be up about 7 percent from a year earlier as pent-up demand and cheap financing kept the U.S. auto sales recovery powering along. Volkswagen reported its best February since 1973.

(AP Photo/LM Otero)

Apple shareholder drops lawsuit on stock

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A disgruntled shareholder pressing Apple to create a new class of preferred stock has dropped a lawsuit that became a moot point after the iPhone and iPad maker changed the agenda at its annual meeting earlier this week. Lawyers for hedge fund manager David Einhorn of Greenlight Capital notified U.S. District Judge Richard Sullivan in a letter sent Thursday that they no longer plan to pursue the lawsuit. Sullivan closed the case, which began three weeks ago in New York.

Einhorn had already achieved his goal last week when Sullivan issued a preliminary ruling blocking an Apple Inc. proposal that would have required shareholder approval before preferred stock could be issued. Apple withdrew the proposal from the agenda at its annual meeting held Wednesday. Two shareholders who attended the annual meeting said they were disappointed that they weren't able to vote in favor of a proposal, which they described as an example of sound corporate governance. Shareholders had reason to

be even more discouraged Friday as Apple's stock touched a new 52-week low, deepening a roughly six-month slide that has wiped out more than \$240 million of the company's market value.

Apple might be able to ease the pain of a 39 percent drop in its stock price by doling out some of its \$137 billion cash hoard to shareholders instead of letting the money idle at a time when interest rates at near record lows. Einhorn, whose fund owns 1.3 million Apple shares, filed his lawsuit to preserve Apple's ability to issue div-

idend-paying preferred stock without having to take the extra step of gaining shareholder approval. He is pushing Apple to issue preferred stock that would guarantee a 4 percent dividend.

Apple CEO Tim Cook dismissed Einhorn's lawsuit as a "silly sideshow" at an investment conference a few weeks ago and again Wednesday at the company's annual meeting. During a question-and-answer session with shareholders Wednesday, Cook said Apple's board is in "very, very active discussions" about what to do with all its cash. □



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Fairway Market, an anchor in Brooklyn, reopens

MARC SANTORA

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NEW YORK — When a Fairway Market opened on the waterfront in Red Hook, Brooklyn, bringing hundreds of jobs and thousands of shoppers to a neighborhood long neglected and cut off from the city, it was hailed as a turning point.

"This beautiful new Fairway is the crown jewel in Red Hook's astounding renaissance," Sen. Charles E. Schumer said during a ceremony in 2006 marking the store's opening. "Red Hook has a rich history, and the new Fairway will certainly be a part of its tremendous future."

And until October 29, 2012, the store did exactly what residents and politicians had hoped: quickly

becoming an anchor in a neighborhood that was ascendant. Small shops opened all around the market on Van Brunt Street, water taxi service reconnected the square-mile peninsula to Manhattan and young people flocked to the area.

Then Hurricane Sandy hit. After the winds subsided and the water receded, many businesses and homes throughout the neighborhood were left wrecked, and Fairway, the key to the neighborhood's rebirth, became a symbol of its devastation.

More than 5 feet of water poured into the store, overturning display cases, drowning mountains of cheese and meats, and forcing the store to be shut-

tered.

It took four months and hundreds of workers, but on Friday the 52,000-square-foot grocery store opened for the first time after the storm.

And once again, the occasion was viewed as something bigger than just the opening of a place to get food and drink.

talize the neighborhood.

Once a thriving industrial area, the neighborhood was left cut off from the rest of Brooklyn by the Gowanus Expressway and the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel. And for years, it languished. But when the city began to seriously commit to restoring its waterfront, Red Hook, with its historic build-

way to continue to develop the waterfront while guarding against natural disasters, particularly the threat of rising sea levels.

The Civil War-era warehouse that houses Fairway has stood for more than 150 years, and there was no record of a storm causing the kind of damage unleashed by Hurricane Sandy.



Shoppers wait for the doors to open at the Fairway Market in the Red Hook neighborhood of the Brooklyn borough of New York, March 1, 2013. The grocery store, seen as the key to the Brooklyn neighborhood's rebirth, opened Friday for the first time since Hurricane Sandy. (Michael Kirby Smith/The New York Times)



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"Red Hook is back!" Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg wrote on Twitter as he made his way to an event marking the store's reopening. He was joined by the Brooklyn borough president, Marty Markowitz, and Miss America, Mallory Hagan, who spoke before the doors officially opened at 11 a.m. Hundreds of people were outside the store waiting to get in. Other stores in the neighborhood that suffered — like Steve's Key Lime and the Red Hook Winery — are also recovering.

But it is Fairway that is often credited with helping re-

talize the neighborhood. Once a thriving industrial area, the neighborhood was left cut off from the rest of Brooklyn by the Gowanus Expressway and the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel. And for years, it languished.

But when the city began to seriously commit to restoring its waterfront, Red Hook, with its historic buildings and stunning views of Lower Manhattan and New York Harbor, was a prime target for development. "Revitalizing our waterfront and connecting it to neighborhoods is one of our primary economic development goals," Bloomberg said when the store opened in 2006. "And there is no better example of what we can accomplish than what is under way along the Brooklyn waterfront in Red Hook."

But even as officials hailed the store's reopening, the damage caused by the storm brought with it many questions about the best

way to continue to develop the waterfront while guarding against natural disasters, particularly the threat of rising sea levels.

The Civil War-era warehouse that houses Fairway has stood for more than 150 years, and there was no record of a storm causing the kind of damage unleashed by Hurricane Sandy.

But Bloomberg has said that, as the climate changes, the city must be prepared for future storms of similar power. Still, on Friday the focus was on celebrating the store's reopening.

Howard Glickberg, the Fairway founder, said that on Thursday, he broke out the champagne to celebrate the store's rebirth. "I had tears in my eye. I built this store six years ago. It's like one of my children," Glickberg told WCBS radio on Friday morning. "We have an obligation, not just to Fairway, but to all of Red Hook." □



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Syrian opposition fighters desperate for weapons

ZEINA KARAM
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — The head of Syria's rebels said Friday that the food and medical supplies the United States plans to give his fighters for the first time won't bring them any closer to defeating President Bashar Assad's forces in the country's civil war. "We don't want food and drink, and we don't want bandages. When we're wounded, we want to die. The only thing we want is weapons," Gen. Salim Idris, chief of staff of the opposition's Supreme Military Council, told The Associated Press by telephone. The former brigadier in Assad's army warned that the world's failure to provide heavier arms is only prolonging the nearly 2-year-old uprising that has killed an estimated 70,000 people. In what was described as a significant policy shift, the Obama administration said Thursday it was giving

an additional \$60 million in assistance to Syria's political opposition and said it would, for the first time, provide non-lethal aid directly to rebels battling to topple Assad. The move was announced by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry at an international conference on Syria in Rome. In the coming days, several European nations are expected to take similar steps in working with the military wing of the opposition to increase pressure on Assad to step down and pave the way for a democratic transition. But the frustration expressed by Idris is shared by most of his colleagues in the Syrian opposition, as well as by scores of rebels fighting in Syria. They feel abandoned by the outside world while the Assad regime pounds them with artillery and bombs. The main rebel units, known together as the Free Syrian Army, regrouped in December under a unified,

Western-backed command headed by Idris and called the Supreme Military Council, following promises of more military assistance

to send weapons, fearing they may fall into the hands of extremists increasingly gaining ground among the rebels.

length of fighters' beards than to the (regime's) massacres." Some Syrians expressed their disappointment on social media websites. One showed a photo of Kerry carrying a toy gun as a gift for the rebels. Another depicted a three-wheeled cart, of the kind usually used by farmers, with the words: "The first of the non-lethal weapons has arrived." Idris, a 55-year-old who studied in Germany and taught electronics at a Syrian military college before defecting in July, said the modest package of aid — consisting of an undetermined amount of food rations and medical supplies — will not help them win against Assad's forces who regularly use warplanes to pound rebel strongholds. "We need anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles to stop Bashar Assad's criminal, murderous regime from annihilating the Syrian people," he said. □



Anti-Syrian regime protesters hold a caricature placard during a demonstration, at Kafr Nabil town, in Idlib province, northern Syria, Friday, March 1, 2013.

(AP Photo/Edlib News Network ENN)

once a central council was in place. Despite those pledges, opposition members say very little has been delivered in terms of financial aid, and more importantly, in weapons and ammunition. The international community remains reluctant

Mouaz al-Khatib, the leader of the Syrian opposition coalition, has lamented the West's focus on the presence of Islamic militants among the fighters. In a forceful speech Thursday to the Rome conference, he said the media reports give "more attention to the

With Kerry on the way, Egypt liberals angry at US

AYA BATRAWY
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — As John Kerry heads to Egypt on Saturday for his first visit as secretary of state, he faces a barrage of accusations from liberal and secular Egyptians who say Washington is siding with the ruling Muslim Brotherhood in the country's sharp political divisions. The United States has had its own frustrations with the mainly liberal and secular opposition, which has been plagued by disorganization and divisions. This week, it

pressed the main opposition grouping, the National Salvation Front, to reverse its decision to boycott parliamentary elections due to begin in April. For months, Egypt has been locked in political crisis, amid successive waves of protests against Islamist President Mohammed Morsi that have repeatedly turned into deadly clashes and rioting. The opposition accuses Morsi and the Brotherhood, from which he hails, of dominating power in Egypt, effectively stepping in to

the same role as ousted autocrat Hosni Mubarak and failing to carry out reforms while their supporters seek to instill a more religiously conservative system. Morsi's administration and the Brotherhood, in turn, say their opponents are trying to use street unrest to overturn their election victories. Washington, Egypt's long-time economic and military benefactor, has kept relatively warm ties with Morsi. The Obama administration has praised him for helping resolve last year's battles between Israel and Hamas,

the Islamic militant rulers of the Gaza Strip, and for maintaining Egypt's peace treaty with Israel. The U.S. has said it wants to encourage the building of democracy in Egypt and, amid the political turmoil, has urged all sides to work out their differences. But the opposition says U.S. officials have voiced little criticism of what it calls the Brotherhood's undemocratic ways of imposing power, including pushing through an Islamist-backed constitution despite an opposition boycott at the end

of its drafting. At least two opposition figures said they rejected invitations to meet with Kerry when he holds talks with Egyptian political parties Saturday, ahead of the American diplomat's meetings the next day with Morsi and the head of Egypt's powerful military. Ahmed el-Borai, a member of the National Salvation Front, was quoted in local newspapers saying that he rejected a U.S. Embassy's invitation "so as to not allow a foreign party to dictate its will on Egyptians." □

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Yemeni al-Qaida posts new issue of online magazine

M. YOUSSEF
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Yemen's al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula — considered to be the terror network's most dangerous branch — is urging for holy war in a new edition of its online English-language magazine.

The edition appeared on militant websites Thursday after an almost nine month interval.

The magazine's former editor, American Samir Khan, was killed in a U.S. drone strike in September 2011 in Yemen, together with the U.S.-born militant cleric Anwar al-Awlaki.

The magazine's new editor, Yahia Ibrahim, praised the two slain al-Qaida figures as a "team whose

martyrdom inspires" others. The new edition includes excerpts from an interview with al-Qaida's American

spokesman, Adam Gadhahn, who uses the name "Azzam the American." He urges militants to con-

tinue fighting America and other NATO members to destroy them economically and militarily. □

Okinawa:

2 US Navy sailors convicted for rape

ERIC TALMADGE
Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Two U.S. Navy sailors were convicted and sentenced to prison on Friday for raping and robbing a woman on Okinawa in a crime that outraged many on the southern Japanese island. Seaman Christopher Browning, of Athens, Texas, and Petty Officer 3rd

Class Skyler Dozierwalker, of Muskogee, Oklahoma, were found guilty by the Naha District Court of raping and robbing a woman in her 20s in a parking lot in October. Both admitted committing the crime.

Browning, 24, was sentenced to 10 years and Dozierwalker, 23, received nine years. The case outraged many Okinawans, who have long complained of military-related crime on their island, which hosts thousands of U.S. troops. It also sparked tougher restrictions for all 50,000 U.S. military personnel in Japan, including a curfew and drinking restrictions. Prosecutors had sought up to 12 years in

prison for Browning, who they said also robbed the woman after the rape. Both men admitted their guilt, but the defense had argued that such a long sentence would be excessive. In handing down the verdict, presiding judge Hideyuki Suzuki said the sentences were in line with the severity of the crimes, which he called "contemptible and violent."

Tensions between U.S. troops and Okinawans are endemic because of islanders' complaints of noise, the danger of accidents and crimes committed by servicemen. The rape in October came amid large protests over the U.S. military's decision

to base a new kind of aircraft at an Okinawan Marine facility.

Although most crimes committed by U.S. military personnel in Japan are handled by military courts, they can be prosecuted in Japanese courts in cases that occur off base and are deemed to be particularly serious, such as murder and rape.

The sailors were temporarily deployed to Japan with their unit, the VR-59 reserve air detachment based at Joint Naval Air Station, Fort Worth, Texas. According to police, they arrived in Okinawa two days before the crime on a brief stopover and were staying in an off-base hotel. □

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In this courtroom sketch, 2 U.S. Navy sailors are convicted and sentenced to prison at the Naha District Court in Naha, Okinawa Prefecture (State), Japan, Friday, March 1, 2013.

(AP Photo/Kyodo News, Koichi Tashiro)



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Beppe Grillo's protest group wins Italian hearts

COLLEEN BARRY
Associated Press

ROME (AP) — It says a lot about the political mood in Italy that when an unidentified package arrived at comic-turned-political leader Beppe Grillo's house, the bomb squad was called.

The package, delivered Thursday, actually contained bottles of Sardinian liquor — a congratulations gift for his group's meteoric rise in Italy's latest election. The vote did not deliver a clear winner but showed Grillo's anti-establishment 5 Star Movement to be the top vote-getter among political parties.

One thing is clear: Three-party gridlock creating the first hung parliament in modern Italian history has raised political tensions even as Italy's economic situation continues to deteriorate. New figures released Friday show the recession-mired Italian economy contracted 2.4 percent last year, while Italian unemployment rose to a record 11.7 percent in January and 39 percent for youths.

No party won a clear majority in both houses, but Grillo and his grass-roots movement captured a deep vein of anger against Italy's political elite.

"If there was a winner in this election, it was surely Beppe Grillo. Grillo did well from Piedmont to Sicily. He did well in all regions of Ita-

ly. With few exceptions, he surpassed 20 percent of the vote and in some places 30 percent. It is a national party, it did well everywhere," said Edoardo Bressanelli, a political science professor at Rome's LUISS University. Grillo himself appeared surprised by the breadth of his



Italian comic-turned-political agitator Beppe Grillo, leader of the anti-establishment 5 Star Movement, delivers a speech in Rome, Italy.

ment — Pier Luigi Bersani's center-left coalition won control of the lower house and is expected to get the first shot — but those loyal to Grillo certainly will have a key say in how Italy's new government is formed. Grillo won't hold office himself due to a manslaughter

President Giorgio Napolitano begins convening the parliamentary groups to form a government, after the newly elected parliament convenes on March 15 and elects its leaders.

In the jockeying ahead of the new legislature, the 64-year-old Grillo hasn't given up his edgy, biting tones or his uncompromising positions. So far he has been unwilling to become an ally of either of Italy's traditional parties — the center-left led by Bersani or the conservatives led by former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi — that he has harangued from his comic's stage for years.

"Bersani is a dead man talking," Grillo wrote on a blog post after the Democratic Party leader made overtures toward him. Grillo went on to call Bersani "a political stalker" for making "indecent proposals instead of stepping down, as anyone in his place would do. He managed to lose while winning."

Grillo says his forces will not

vote to support any new government formed by either Bersani or Berlusconi, but would back legislation by conscience, one piece at a time. The withholding of a confidence vote limits the possibilities of forming a solid majority in the Senate, where the votes are split.

Bressanelli said one possible outcome is that Grillo could form a limited alliance with the center-left to achieve very specific agenda items before going into a new election relatively soon.

Meanwhile, Milan prosecutors in one of Berlusconi's ongoing legal battles on Friday asked an appeals court to uphold a four-year sentence for tax fraud — a politically damaging case. Another judicial front opened against him: Investigators in Naples have called Berlusconi for questioning next week in a case alleging he paid a lawmaker supporting the then-center-left government of Romano Prodi €3 million to defect and join his party in 2006. □

(AP Photo/Andrew Medichini)

success.

"He expected to be important, but he thought he would be a hard opposition. He didn't expect to be a big player," Bressanelli said.

A total of 163 "Grillini" have won seats: 109 of 630 seats in Italy's lower house and 54 of 315 seats in its upper house. They rode a wave of popular anger at the government's austerity measures, its privileged political class, a series of corporate scandals and an underlying absence of public morality. They are not numerous enough to form a govern-

conviction for a 1981 traffic accident that left three dead.

Despite market unease over Italy's political gridlock, it will be weeks until



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NY court eyeing Argentine debt swap offer

MICHAEL WARREN
Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — A New York court ordered Argentina on Friday to explain how it would issue new bonds rather than comply with a \$1.3 billion cash judgment to resolve debts unpaid for more than decade. Two days after a key oral hearing in NML Capital Ltd. vs Argentina, the appellate judges asked just how, when and at what interest rate Argentina would pay installments on these new bonds.

President Cristina Fernandez had long vowed nev-

er to pay anything to the plaintiffs she calls "vulture funds," which she accuses of trying to ruin Argentina's recovery from its 2002 economic collapse. But in a speech to Congress on Friday, she endorsed the compromise offer of a new debt swap, which had been floated in December by her Economy Minister Hernan Lorenzino.

She said Argentina would pay the plaintiffs, but at terms no better than those the vast majority of Argentina's defaulted debt holders accepted in two previous debt swaps. Those exchange bondholders

agreed to provide Argentina with significant debt relief in exchange for new bonds, which her government has always paid.

"We have rigorously paid everything we've promised," she said.

"And we are also prepared to pay these vulture funds, but not at terms that are better than the 93 percent who believed in and supported Argentina," she said.

Friday's court order suggests the appellate judges are at least giving Argentina another opportunity to explain how this might work. □



Argentina's President Cristina Fernandez unveils an archetype of the new 100 Argentine pesos bill at the government palace in Buenos Aires, Argentina. (AP Photo/Alberto Raggio)

Opposition: Venezuela lying about Chavez's health

FABIOLA SANCHEZ
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Opposition leader Henrique Capriles accused Venezuela's government Friday of repeatedly lying about President Hugo Chavez's condition, and said the truth will be known within days. Capriles tweeted the claim as Vice President Nicolas Maduro assured Venezuelans on national TV that their cancer-stricken president continues a difficult and slow recovery from Dec. 11 surgery.

"We'll see how they explain to the country in the (coming) days all the lies they've been telling

about the president's situation," said Capriles, whom Chavez defeated in Oct. 7 elections.

Chavez has not been seen nor heard from since, other than in some proof-of-life photos released on Feb. 15.

The government says the socialist who has been Venezuela's leader for more than 14 years returned from Cuba three days later and is at Caracas' military hospital.

But it has also sent mixed signals. On Thursday, Maduro said, not for the first time, that Chavez was battling for his life.

Maduro accused opponents of spreading rumors

about Chavez' health to destabilize the nation.

The opposition says Chavez should either be sworn in or declare himself incapable and call new elections. The constitution says he should have been sworn in on Jan. 10, but Venezuela's Supreme Court said it was OK to wait.

Maduro attacked the Spanish newspaper ABC and Colombia's Caracol network for allegedly spreading lies about Chavez's condition. ABC said without specifying its source that Chavez's cancer had spread to a lung. It said he had been moved to an island compound in the Caribbean. □

LATIN & CARIBBEAN BRIEFS

FARC peace talks reach critical moment

HAVANA (AP) — Colombian government delegates at peace talks with the hemisphere's largest guerrilla army say negotiations are at a critical juncture and must yield concrete results. Humberto de la Calle is chief of the government negotiating team. He says talks have advanced on the recovery of illegally held terrain and landless rural families gaining access to plots. De la Calle says talks are still centered on agrarian issues, the first on the six-item agenda. He says the government recognizes that the rebels' stance on victims of the decades-old conflict has evolved, and adds that this is a "crucial moment" for peace in Colombia. □

Argentine leader: "a victorious decade"

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — President Cristina Fernandez has opened congress with a marathon, 3.5-hour speech describing the accomplishments of her government's "victorious decade" in power and defending her management at a time of falling confidence in Argentina's economy. She also announced a major effort to reshape Argentina's judiciary, an idea that worries opponents who have depended on court injunctions to protect their interests. And she defended the joint Argentine-Iranian "truth commission" she hopes will solve Argentina's worst terrorist attack, a diplomatic effort that deeply concerns Jewish leaders. □

Suspected pedophile held in Dominican

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — Police in the Dominican Republic say they detained a Canadian man wanted on pedophilia and child exploitation charges, and sent him back to his homeland. A police statement says that 81-year-old Charles Philippe Joseph was captured in a beach complex at Sosua, which is about 252 kilometers (157 miles) north of Santo Domingo. The statement says he is wanted in Canada for alleged crimes against children and sexual exploitation. He was sent back to Canada on Thursday on a commercial flight to Montreal. The beaches of the DR are often used by suspected foreign pedophiles. □

Guyanese to receive \$5M in Norway aid

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP) — Indian communities in Guyana's interior Amazon region are slated to receive \$5 million in aid from Norway to launch environmentally friendly businesses. The funds are part of a \$250 million payment that Norway has pledged to give the South American country for protecting its Amazonian rainforest. The funds are part of a three-year program to be administered by the Inter-American Development Bank. Finance officials said that up to 2,000 jobs could be created by the program, which they expect will lead to the development of fruit, fish and vegetable farms and food processing and-eco tourism ventures. □

Rio de Janeiro public drivers begin strike

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Bus drivers in Rio de Janeiro are on strike, creating hours-long lines at bus stops and leaving many workers unable to get to their jobs. The Brazilian strikers are demanding a 20 percent wage increase, as well as other benefits. They walked off the job early Friday, drastically reducing the numbers operating buses. Brazilian media report that some passengers spent hours waiting for the bus, especially in the city's poorer northern neighborhoods. Strikers were due to vote later on whether to continue the work-stoppage. □



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who spend most of their time working on the airport ramp, joined Emil who is the go-to guy for all office errands, and Zoraida who works in the accounting, in celebrating 30 years of combined experience. The celebrants were praised by members of management and their direct supervisors, who assisted in the festivities, recounting fun anecdotes from the past, and acknowledging their personal career milestone. Nelio recalled that when Patrick was hired 15 years ago, he came to work on his first day, on Carnival

to handle the luggage of all flights single handedly. Nelio banter he thought Patrick would never come back to work after that, but he did, and he has been with the company for 15 years. Pictured here Managing Directors, Alejandro Muyale Femi Muyale, and their team during dinner at Amazonia Churrascaria, pampered by the roaming gauchos and the service staff. The dinner celebration took place in the private room, which contributed to the party's intimate and congenial ambiance. □

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Holiday Inn Resort Aruba makes generous donation!



PALM BEACH - Last Wednesday, the Holiday Inn Resort Aruba, with a beautiful gesture, made a big donation to SABA-Stichting Algemene Bejaardenzorg Aruba.

Saba manages 4 locations which are San Pedro with 46 inhabitants and St. Michael with 63 inhabitants in Oranjestad, Huize Marie Stella with 98 inhabitants in Savaneta and the new-

est last one added is the Centro di Cuido in San Nicolas with 48 inhabitants.

Saba manages all locations from its main offices which is in Playa.

Seeing the necessity of the foundations in Aruba and considering that many times these foundations does not have the necessary funds to acquire what is needed, the Holiday Inn Resort Aruba, as part of their corporate & community responsibility, donated the following to SABA: 360 Bed sheets (new), 360 pillowcases (new), 60 mattress pads (new), 12 curtains (new), 125 coffee-makers and 75 clock radios. □

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Ronald Causley wins a Jackpot at the Casino at the Radisson

PALM BEACH – A Straight Flush made Ronald Causley very happy, as it came with a \$4,793 jackpot! The lucky player tested his luck and his skill at the Casino at the Radisson, when he played Caribbean Stud Poker, last night. Staying at the Marriott Resort next door Ronald

took a trip down the hotel strip and it paid off, as casino hopping often does! The Caribbean Stud Poker jackpot at the Casino at the Radisson still offers more than \$41,000 to anyone who wants to come and get it, and it is growing right as we speak! □

Judge denies dismissal motion in disappearance; insurer seeking to void Giordano's travel policy

GREENBELT, Maryland — A federal judge has refused to dismiss a suit filed by an insurer against a Maryland man jailed over the suspected death of his traveling companion in Aruba. An American Express subsidiary is suing Gary Giordano of Gaithersburg over a travel insurance policy he took out in Robyn Gardner's name before their Caribbean vacation. The suit says the policy isn't enforceable because the two aren't married,

business partners or related otherwise. Giordano sought dismissal on multiple grounds, including whether the challenge should be filed in federal court. The 51-year-old Giordano was arrested at the Aruba airport in August 2011 after reporting her missing. He has said the Frederick woman was swept out to sea while they were snorkeling. A judge later ruled prosecutors didn't have enough evidence to hold him. □

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located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the Westin Resort, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 9 am to 1 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort and at well-known cigar stores. For their complete selection and attractive by the box prices visit their retail store. Tours are also available at their Tobacco farm where their cigars are grown and rolled.



For a group or private tour, call 586 0347 - 593 6177 or send them an email at aruhibacigars@gmail.com



NFL sets franchise, transition tags

Associated Press
Matt Slocum

NEW YORK (AP) — The franchise tag for quarterbacks in 2013 will be \$14.896 million.

But the Baltimore Ravens no longer need worry about it because Joe Flacco agreed to a new deal with them on Friday.

The NFL set the franchise tag at that figure earlier in the day. Then the Ravens prevented the Super Bowl MVP from reaching free agency beginning March 12 when, according to a person with knowledge of the contract, they reached a new deal with Flacco.

Flacco played out his five-year rookie contract, making \$6.76 million, and led the Ravens to the Super Bowl title.

Terms of Flacco's new agreement were not immediately available.

The person with knowledge of the deal spoke on condition of anonymity because nothing has been announced officially.

Under the franchise tag in 2013, a player is paid according to a formula based on salaries for the past five years at the position and their percentage of the total salary cap.

With the non-exclusive tag, his team has the right to match any offer sheet, or get two first-round draft picks in return for allowing him to leave.

Both sides can continue to negotiate on a longer deal even after a franchise tag has been applied.

Continued on page 21

COOL HAND LUKE



Frustrated Melroy walks off course at Honda

Luke Guthrie sizes up his shot as he prepares to hit out of a bunker on the ninth hole during the second round of the Honda Classic golf tournament, Friday, March 1, 2013, in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.
Associated Press
Page 19

Mushers, dogs line up for Alaska's Iditarod race

RACHEL D'ORO

Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)

— The world's most famous sled dog race kicks off Saturday with an 11-mile (18-kilometer) trot through Alaska's largest city.

Think of the short jaunt in Anchorage as the festival part of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. This is the time relaxed mushers will smile and pose for photos, waving at crowds as they leisurely sail along streets covered with trucked-in snow.

The real competition begins Sunday in Willow, 50 miles (80 kilometers) to the north.

Gone will be the big easy grins as tense mushers and their leaping dogs begin

the 1,000-mile (1,610-kilometer) trek through unpredictable wilderness to the old gold rush town of Nome on Alaska's western coast. Along the way, the teams will climb mountains, cross forests and gorges and frozen rivers. They'll sign in at village checkpoints. They'll face blizzards and brutal winds. Some of the 66 teams starting the race will scratch from the running far from the finish line.

Contenders can't wait to get to the trail.

"As far as I'm concerned, the weather is one of the easiest things because it's the one thing I have no control over whatsoever," said defending champion Dallas Seavey, 25, the youngest Iditarod winner ever. "My job as a musher



In this March 13, 2012, file photo, Dallas Seavey embraces his leaders, Diesel, left, and Guinness after he arrived at the finish line to claim victory in the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race in Nome, Alaska.

Associated Press

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is to train a team and train myself to work with whatever conditions Mother Nature throws at us, and the worse it is, the better we do."

The Willow musher is among six past Iditarod winners, including his father, Mitch Seavey, in the 41st running of the race. Dallas Seavey also is among six past winners of the 1,000-mile Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race, held just weeks before the Iditarod. Lance Mackey of Fairbanks is the only musher to win both races the same year—accomplishing dual championships not once, but two years in a row. Mackey, a throat cancer survivor, has won both races four times and was hoping for a comeback to his last Iditarod championship in 2010.

But the 42-year-old musher said he doesn't expect a good run after having just scratched in the Quest in February because of a team of ailing veteran dogs. His Iditarod team consists mostly of a bunch of puppies — his words.

The only reason he's going through with the race is be-

cause he has a film crew following him for a documentary, he said.

"I fully expected this year to be the year to fully redeem myself, with the best team I ever had," he said. "And they got sick on me." Mackey, however, has been known to talk like that even during his championship races, so longtime fans know not to count him out of the running.

Whoever reaches Nome first wins a new truck and a cash prize of \$50,400.

The rest of the \$600,000 purse will be split between the next 29 mushers to cross the finish line.

Unseasonably warm weather earlier this year complicated training for mushers in some areas, but Iditarod officials never worried it would affect the race.

Now, there is plenty of snow along the trail, even too much during one stretch, race marshal Mark Nordman said this week. High winds knocked trees over in another section, but trail breakers have been building bridges there.

"So far, we're set to go," Nordman said. □

McIlroy leaves, Guthrie leads and Woods struggles

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. (AP) --

Rory McIlroy left before his round was even over. Tiger Woods had to rally just to stick around.

And with all that drama Friday in the Honda Classic, hardly anyone noticed that Luke Guthrie showed off his potential in a big way with a 7-under 63 to take a one-shot lead going into the weekend at PGA National.

Guthrie, pegged by many of his peers as a rookie worth watching going into the year, played bogey-free on another cool, cloudy day.

Of his seven birdies, perhaps the most impressive for the Big Ten champion from Illinois came on the sixth hole when he had mud on the side of his ball and was able to work the shot in from the right to about 10 feet.

After finishing his round, he walked into an interview room when someone mentioned that McIlroy walked off the course after being 7-over par through eight holes.

"I had no clue," Guthrie said. "I was just kind of going about my business out there."

He was at 9-under 131 and had a one-shot lead over Michael Thompson.

McIlroy, who missed the cut in Abu Dhabi and lost in the first round of the Match Play Championship in his previous two starts, made a double bogey on his second hole and rinsed two balls in the water on the 16th hole on his way to a triple bogey.

He hit his approach to the 18th in the water and never finished the hole.

He shook hands with Ernie Els and Mark Wilson and was on his way, but not before conflicting messages. McIlroy told three reporters who followed him to his car that it was nothing physical but that he was "not in a good place mentally."

An hour later, he released a statement through his management company that he couldn't concentrate because of a sore

wisdom tooth.

Woods looked as if he might join him. After mixing birdies with bogeys, Woods went bunker-to-bunker, over the green, short of the green and wound up with a double bogey on the 13th hole that put him one shot under the cut line with five holes to play.

Instead of the second straight week when No. 1 and No. 2 were gone early, Woods answered with a shot into 5 feet for birdie, a 6-foot par putt on the 16th hole, a par save from the back bunker on the 17th that was easier than it looked, and a par save from near the grandstand by the 18th green that was harder than it looked.

He wound up with another 70 to make the cut on the number, nine shots out of the lead.

"I didn't quite have my game like I did yesterday," Woods said. "I hit it much better yesterday, but I putted better today, so it all evened out."

Also having a tough time was tennis star Serena Williams, following in Woods' large gallery. She took a picture of the 14-time major champion after his tee shot on the 17th and was scolded by security. The PGA Tour does not allow photos on competition days.

"Apparently u can't take pics. This security ... yelled at me," she tweeted.

A few minutes later, she posted the photo. And she finished with one last tweet: "In my Defense peeps always take pics of tennis players."

There was no reason to get a snapshot of Camilo Villegas, who joined a dubious list of PGA Tour players who went from worst-to-first. Villegas, playing primarily on sponsor exemptions this year because he lost his full status, opened with a 64 for his best start in more than a year.

The Colombian was 13 shots worse on Friday in a round of 77 that caused him to miss the cut. The last player to do that was Jim Renner at the Travelers Championship in 2011.

Thompson had a 65 and will play in the final group with Guthrie, the first time all year the PGA Tour will have twosomes on the weekend.

Boo Weekley held it together for another day and shot 67 to finish two shots behind at 133, along with Graham DeLaet of Canada.

Behind them was an impressive collection of players.

Geoff Ogilvy finally began holing some putts and shot 66 to go into the weekend three shots behind, along with Lee Westwood (68), Charles Howell III (67), Sean O'Hair (68) and Justin Rose (66). Ogilvy had not made a cut in his past four tournaments, dating to his season opener in the California desert. □



Rory McIlroy, of Northern Ireland, watches his tee shot on the 10th hole during the first round of the Honda Classic golf tournament, Thursday, Feb. 28, 2013, in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

Associated Press

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Clippers hold off Pacers in clash of leaders

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Chris Paul scored 29 points, and Blake Griffin finished with 18 points and 14 rebounds to help Los Angeles hold off Indiana's late charge.

The Clippers have won three straight and seven of their past eight.

David West led the Pacers with 22 points, while All-Star Paul George had 20 points and five assists. Danny Granger finished with a season-high 12 points.

But without the suspended Roy Hibbert, the Pacers barely resembled the team that had won five straight by an average margin of 23.8 points.

BULLS 93, 76ERS 82

CHICAGO (AP) — Joakim Noah had 23 points, 21 rebounds and a career-high 11 blocks for his third career triple-double and the Chicago Bulls ended a two-game losing streak with a 93-82 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers on Thursday. Carlos Boozer added 21 points and 12 rebounds while Kirk Hinrich and



Los Angeles Clippers forward Blake Griffin, right, gets a dunk behind Indiana Pacers center Ian Mahinmi during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Indianapolis, Thursday, Feb. 28, 2013.

Associated Press

Luol Deng had 15 and 12 points, respectively, as the Bulls completed a three-game regular season series sweep.

Noah tied the Bulls record for

blocks in a regulation game, previously set by Artis Gilmore in 1977. Jrue Holiday paced the Sixers with 22 points, and Spencer Hawes added 20 points and 15 rebounds.

The loss was Philadelphia's season-high seventh in a row.

LAKERS 116, TIMBERWOLVES 94

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kobe Bryant scored 33 points and Antawn Jamison added 17 in Los Angeles' 21st consecutive victory over Minnesota.

Bryant and Jodie Meeks each hit four of Los Angeles' 16 3-pointers, and Meeks finished with 16 points. The Lakers (29-30) have won 12 of 17 and five of seven while moving within two games of Houston for the final playoff spot in the Western Conference with their longest stretch of solid play in this tumultuous season.

J.J. Barea scored 20 points and Luke Ridnour added 19 for the short-handed Timberwolves, who have lost four straight and 20 of 24. Los Angeles' mastery of Minnesota is the NBA's longest active winning streak in any matchup.

Ricky Rubio had 13 points, 13 assists and eight rebounds, but Minnesota never threatened to get its first win over the Lakers since March 6, 2007. □

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NHL Capsules

Blackhawks extend points streak to 20 games

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Jonathan Toews scored twice, and Ray Emery and Corey Crawford combined on a shutout as the Chicago Blackhawks extended their NHL-record season-opening points streak to 20 games with a 3-0 win over the St. Louis Blues on Thursday night.

Andrew Shaw also scored for Chicago, which was coming off a 6-0-1 homestand and improved to 9-0-2 on the road. The Blackhawks, who have won seven in a row overall, have earned 37 out of a possible 40 points this season with a 17-0-3 start.

Chicago has a point in its last 26 regular-season games since a loss on

March 25, 2012, to Nashville.

Chicago, playing its first road game in 18 days, has won four in a row against St. Louis, which has lost three of four.

Crawford was pulled with an upper-body injury after making six saves in the first period. Emery made 15 saves over the final two periods.

Toews scored 12 seconds into the game.

BRUINS 2, SENATORS 1, OT BOSTON (AP) — Patrice Bergeron's goal at 3:39 of overtime, awarded after a replay review, lifted Boston over Ottawa.

Nathan Horton also scored for the surging Bruins, who won their fourth straight and improved to 13-2-2. Tu-

ukka Rask made 30 saves, including a pair of stellar stops in OT.

Jim O'Brien scored for the Senators, who had a five-game winning streak snapped.

Bergeron deflected a shot from the left circle that glanced off Ottawa goalie Robin Lehner and trickled across the goal line. The crowd roared, the light went on and horn sounded, but the referee behind the net waved it off.

After a review, replays clearly showed the puck slid across the line when Lehner reached back and knocked it into the net before pulling it back out. Lehner finished with 44 saves.

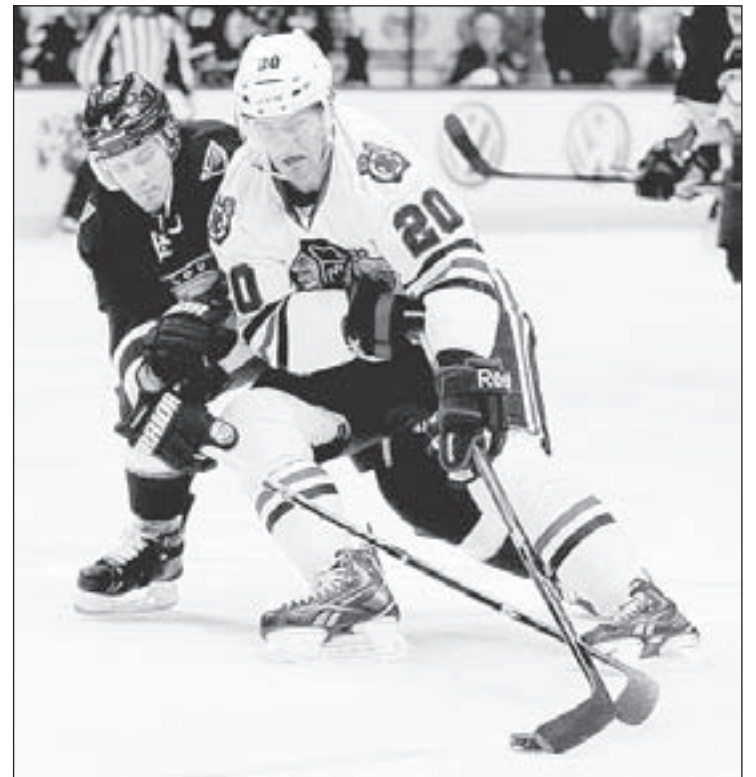
HURRICANES 4, PENGUINS 1 RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Jiri Tlustý had two goals and an assist, and Carolina beat Pittsburgh in ex-Penguin Jordan Staal's first game against his former team.

Eric Staal had a goal and two assists, Alexander Semin added two assists and Jeff Skinner scored a goal in his first game back from a concussion.

The Southeast Division co-leaders erased an early 1-0 deficit by scoring three goals in a span of 6 minutes, 14 seconds and won for just the second time in six games.

Chris Kunitz scored for the Penguins, who entered leading the Atlantic Division but were held without a power-play goal for the first time since Feb. 2.

Cam Ward made 26 saves for Carolina. Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 25 shots for



Chicago Blackhawks' Brandon Saad (20) tries to slip past St. Louis Blues' Kris Russell during the first period of an NHL hockey game, Thursday, Feb. 28, 2013, in St. Louis.

Associated Press



NFI

Continued from page 17

An exclusive tag ties him to his current team at a higher, but as-yet-undetermined price, for one season.

In a quarterback-driven league, Flacco certainly would draw plenty of interest on the open market.

Already tagged are Buffalo safety Jairus Byrd at \$6.916 million, Indianapolis punter Pat McAfee at \$2.977 million and Cincinnati defensive end Michael Johnson at \$11.175 million.

The other tags for franchise players are \$10.854 million for cornerbacks; \$10.537

million for wide receivers; \$9.828 million for offensive linemen; \$9.619 million for linebackers; \$8.45 million for defensive tackles; \$8.219 million for running backs; and \$6.066 million for tight ends.

Transition tags also were set Friday. If a player gets that tag, he is free to negotiate with other teams, and his current club has the right to match any offers. If it doesn't match, the player leaves with no compensation owed.

The transition figures range from \$13.068 million at quarterback to \$5.194 million for tight ends and \$2.7 million for kickers. □

the Penguins, who have lost the first two games of a three-game road swing.

RANGERS 4, LIGHTNING 1 NEW YORK (AP) — Carl Hagelin and Derek Stepan scored in a one-sided first period, and the suddenly healthy New York Rangers snapped a four-game losing streak with a victory over Tampa Bay.

Defenseman Marc Staal added just the eighth power-play goal of the season in the second period for New York, which ended an 0-3-1 skid in the second game of a four-game homestand and completed a three-game, season-series sweep of the Lightning.

The Rangers were bolstered by the return of top forward Rick Nash, who missed four games, and defensemen Ryan McDonagh and Michael Del Zotto. New York moved one point ahead of Tampa Bay in the Eastern Conference playoff race.

Nash, who assisted on Staal's goal, finished the scoring with 1:33 remaining off

a feed from Brad Richards on a rush for his fourth goal. McDonagh had two assists. New York held a 20-3 shots advantage after the first period, 35-11 through two, and 42-25 overall. Henrik Lundqvist stopped 24 shots. Lightning counterpart Mathieu Garon made 38 saves, and Martin St. Louis scored Tampa Bay's lone goal in the first period. Steven Stamkos had an assist to stretch his point streak to eight, but his NHL-best goal-scoring run ended at six.

RED WINGS 2, SHARKS 1, SO SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Darnen Brunner scored the lone goal in a shootout and Jonas Gustavsson stopped all three shots in his first start of the season to lead Detroit past slumping San Jose.

Patrick Eaves scored the equalizer midway through the third period and Gustavsson made 25 saves to get his first win since March 3, 2012, for Toronto against Montreal. □

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Consumer watchdog wants sugar limits for soft drinks

Susan Salisbury

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WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. -- A consumer watchdog has asked the federal government to determine how much high-fructose corn syrup and sugar is safe in beverages from sodas to energy drinks.

Although refined sugar made from sugar cane grown in South Florida is a \$1 billion-a-year business, most soft drinks are made with high-fructose corn syrup.

Soft drinks are so full of sweeteners that they are unsafe, says the Center for Science in the Public Interest, which last week asked the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to determine "safe levels" of added sugars for beverages and to set limits for manufacturers.

A typical 20-ounce bottle of soda contains about 16 teaspoons of sugar from high-fructose corn syrup -- more than twice the daily limit recommended by the American Heart Association. The Center for Science in the Public Interest also wants caloric sweetener limits set for non-carbonated drinks and such sweet-

ened beverages as sports, energy and fruit drinks and flavored milks.

"As currently formulated, Coke, Pepsi and other sugar-based drinks are unsafe for regular human consumption," said center executive director Michael Jacobson. "The FDA should require the beverage industry to re-engineer their sugary products over several years, making them safer." The Center for Consumer

plaint against sugar and high-fructose corn syrup "unnecessary and misguided."

Weight gain can't be blamed on soda or any specific food or beverage, but is due to simple mathematics, when the amount of calories consumed exceeds the amount of calories burned, the food industry group said.

The petition asks the FDA to determine what level

level, but notes that several health agencies identified 2 1/2 teaspoons -- 10 grams -- as a reasonable limit in a healthier drink.

The petition also asks the FDA to encourage the food industry to reduce sugar content in breakfast cereals, baked goods and other foods. Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.-based registered dietitian Sandy Livingston said sweetened tea and fruit punch have the same amount of sugar as soda. Drinks with less sugar, especially with less high-fructose corn syrup would be great for consumers' health, she said. "I would like to see the beverage industry do this on their own without waiting for a mandate from the FDA," Livingston said.

Bob Messenger, publisher of The Morning Cup, a food-and-beverage industry report, said, "CSPI's petition just piles on to the building anti-sugar, anti-soda, anti-junk food momentum. I still believe that all of this is an assault on Americans' right to make their own choices, but I also think this is a fight the industry will eventually lose. "I think at some point the FDA will cave to CSPI and other

activist voices because the Obama administration, led by Michelle Obama's health and wellness initiative, will provide the pressure for FDA to line up with the health advocates and pull the trigger on serious reform. Our food and beverage culture is in the process of being restructured and I'm not sure the food and beverage industry can do anything to stop it," Messenger said.

Susan Joyce Proctor, a Delray Beach, Fla.-based nutritionist, said, "On the one hand, the government can't really limit the choices that people make. On the other hand, the fact that soft drinks are so visible and prevalent and part of the culture, it is really scary. "As bad as sugar is, the high-fructose corn syrup and artificial sweeteners are even worse. The sugar industry took issue with the petition lumping together sugar -- or sucrose -- with high-fructose corn syrup. "More than 90 percent of the caloric sweetener sold to the American beverage industry is HFCS," said Clewiston, Fla.-based U.S. Sugar Corp. spokeswoman Judy Sanchez. "Natural sugar does not sweeten major brand sodas.

"Sugar is a completely natural product that has been consumed safely for thousands of years while HFCS is a man-made product used as a sugar substitute over the last 40 years. USDA data shows that per-capita consumption of the sucrose found in sugar cane and sugar beets has markedly declined -- down 35 percent since 1970 -- during that same 40-year period, which also coincides with the dramatic increase in the prevalence of obesity and metabolic disease," Sanchez said. Megan Mitchell, spokeswoman for The Sugar Association in Washington, said, "In the past three years, only 4 percent of sugar sold in the U.S. went to the beverage industry. Hence, our constant insistence that they not be referred to as 'sugar-sweetened beverages.'" □



A consumer sips on an extra-large sugary beverage.

(Handout Photo)

Freedom, a nonprofit coalition supported by restaurants, food companies and consumers, called Center for Science in the Public Interest's 54-page FDA com-

of added sugars would be safe for use in beverages, and to require those limits to be phased in over several years. The petition did not propose a specific safe

Good etiquette counts at the gym

Marjie Gilliam

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DAYTON, Ohio -- Most people who work out at the gym have had the misfortune of encountering poor etiquette at times.

Lori Pines is a lawyer and avid exerciser who believes that everyone is entitled to get a great workout at the gym.

Sick and tired of inconsiderate behavior at the health clubs she frequents, Pines put down the dumbbells and wrote "The Little Book of Gym Etiquette: A Handbook for Dealing With Annoying People at the Gym."

"This is a topic every gym-goer has probably thought about at some point," the New York City resident said. Pines got tired of seeing empty water bottles litter the gym floor and listening to loud talkers barely

breaking a sweat on the stationary bikes.

Her "3 C's" to think about in the gym: Be clean, considerate and cheerful.

Following these three simple rules, according to Pines, should keep everyone in the gym satisfied.

Some basic rules of gym etiquette follow:

Don't be a hog or a space invader

In other words, have respect for other people's personal space and time. Nothing is more annoying than being interrupted by a chatterbox when you are trying to work out.

The majority of people are limited as to the amount of time they have to exercise, and the last thing they need is to be held captive by a nonstop talker or wait 10 minutes for someone to finish using a machine. If you want to say a word

or two, nothing wrong with that, but then move on.

If you are using a piece of equipment and someone is waiting, be courteous and invite him or her to "work in" with you.

As they are taking their turn, be aware that they need to focus on the exercise, not on you, so use this time to get a drink of water or do a quick stretch, and then move on with your workout.

Other no-nos include using equipment as your hanger, taking up the entire bench in the locker room, blocking the mirrors, hogging the water fountain or lingering on a machine if you're not using it.

Don't be a slob

Wipe your sweat off the equipment, cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze, don't leave tissues, sweaty towels, reading

material or water bottles around, don't leave hair in the sink or shower and don't eat near the equipment. If you are sick, then stay home.

Don't be an exhibitionist

An exhibitionist is a gym-goer who either intentionally or unintentionally displays a need to be seen or heard. The exhibitionist shows us more of his body than we want or need to see, exercises to unsafe extremes to show off her skills, or grunts and groans to excess while lifting weights.

As the saying goes, "When you enter the gym, leave your ego at the door."

Marjie Gilliam is a personal trainer and fitness consultant. E-mail: marjie(at)ohtrainer.com.

This article appeared in the Dayton Daily News.

Story Filed By Cox Newspapers. □

Companies struggle to popularize mobile money

PETER SVENSSON

AP Technology Writer

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) —

Mobile money may seem like a hot concept, but consumers aren't warming to it.

At the world's largest cellphone trade show, here in Barcelona this week, the 70,000 attendees are encouraged to use their cellphones —instead their keycards— to get past the turnstiles at the door. But very few people took the chance to do that. The process of setting up the phone to act as a keycard proved too much of a hassle.

It's a poor omen for an industry that's eager to have the cellphone replace both tickets and credit cards. Companies are building chips antennas into phones that let the gadgets interact with "tap to pay" terminals and other devices equipped with short-range sensors, like subway turnstiles. But getting the technology to do something useful and convincing people to adopt it is a slow process.

To make a payment in a store with your cellphone, "you need a lot of things to align," said Reed Peterson, who heads the Near-Field Communications initiative for the GSM Association, a global trade group for the wireless industry. The phone needs to be properly equipped with NFC hardware and software; the store needs to have the proper equipment and training. The phone company needs to support the transaction, and banks and payment processors need to be in on it.

Some of these things have fallen into place, Peterson said, but the network of commercial agreements that supports these payments needs to expand. And consumer demand remains elusive.

"I want to get to the point where the consumer goes into the store and says 'Show me only the phones that have NFC'," Peterson said.

Today, a buyer is quite likely to go into a store

and ask for an iPhone, and that's an obstacle to NFC adoption. Apple Inc. is the lone holdout among major smartphone makers, and hasn't built NFC into any of its devices yet.

Visa, the global payments network, announced a coup at the show: it has struck a deal with Samsung Electronics to take charge of the "secure element" in the next flagship phone from the South Korean company. The Galaxy S IV is expected to be launched at an event in New York on Mar. 14, though the name has not been confirmed.

The "secure element" is sort of like a safe inside the phone. Whoever controls access to it decides which credit cards, transit passes or other verified "docu-



A man uses the "Paypal here" system of payment with the phone at the Mobile World Congress, the world's largest mobile phone trade show, in Barcelona, Spain, Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2013.

Associated Press



A man uses the NFC payment Visa system at the Mobile World Congress, the world's largest mobile phone trade show, in Barcelona, Spain, Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2013

Associated Press

ments" the phone can store. A bank that wants to let customers use their Samsung smartphones as virtual credit cards will have to go through Visa. Control of the secure element is a crucial battleground for NFC. The GSMA, which is dominated by cellphone carriers, advocates putting the secure element not in the phone itself, but in the subscriber identity module, or SIM card, which plugs into the phone to identify the user and supply a phone number to the network. SIM cards are issued and controlled by the carriers who would like to be the ones in control of the secure element.

While Visa, phone companies and Google (which has its own payment initiative) duel over the secure element, eBay Inc.'s PayPal is wondering what all the fuss is about. The online payment network thinks NFC is a lot more trouble than it's worth. The company isn't afraid to say so at the wireless industry tradeshow.

"If you want to change something, you have to solve problems that people have in everyday life," said David Marcus, the president of PayPal. "It's not like everyone is thinking 'Oh, I wish someone came up with something better'" than paper money and

credit cards.

PayPal is putting a lot of effort into making cellphones central to the way we shop, but is focusing on the shopping experience itself, rather than payments. The company's ideal vision for buying a cup of coffee: You pull out your phone on the way to the store, fire up PayPal's app to order your double-skim latte and pay for it in advance. When you arrive at the counter,

the barista has your picture and your coffee, and gives it to you right away. Then you're out the door.

Thirty years ago, Marcus said, store clerks knew the people in their neighborhood and greeted them by name.

"We think with this technology, we could recreate that personal connection," he said. "We feel this is going to leapfrog the efforts of NFC." □

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Coca-Cola CEO Kent paid \$21.6 million for 2012

CANDICE CHOI

AP Food Industry Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Coca-Cola Co. gave Chairman and CEO Muhtar Kent a pay package worth \$21.6 million last year, as the world's biggest beverage maker navigated shifting drinking habits in the U.S. and sold more of its drinks overseas. The compensation is up from the \$21.2 million Kent received in 2011, according to an Associated Press analysis.

The bump in pay was mostly the result of Kent's salary of \$1.6 million, which was up 15 percent from the previous year. Stock and option awards were about even at \$13.1 million. Incentive pay, which is based on formula tied to the company's performance, was unchanged at \$6 million. All other compensation came to \$963,816 and included costs for use of the company plane, a car and driver and contributions to retirement plans.

In a regulatory filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Coca-Cola noted that the company delivered profit growth in a year "marked by continued uncertainty in the global economy." The Atlanta-based maker of Sprite, Powerade, Minute Maid and Dasani reported a 5 percent increase in profit to \$9.02 billion, with global sales volume up 4 percent. Kent, 60, took the helm as Coca-Cola's top executive in 2008. About a year later, he unveiled a plan to double the company's revenue by 2020, fueled by growth in China, India and other countries where the ranks of middle-class people are growing. At the time, Kent noted that Coca-Cola had to pay attention and react to changes in the world, which he said it hadn't done from 2000 to 2004. Kent first joined Coca-Cola in 1978 and held a variety of positions until 1998, when he left to become president and CEO of Efes Beverage Group. □

US consumer spending up 0.2 percent in January

M. CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. consumers increased spending modestly in January but cut back on major purchases that signal confidence in the economy. The decline in spending on goods suggests higher tax rates that kicked in on Jan. 1 may have made consumers more cautious.

The Commerce Department said Friday that consumer spending rose 0.2 percent in January compared with December. The gain was driven by an increase in spending on services, partly reflecting higher heating bills. Spending on durable goods, such as cars and appliances, fell 0.8 percent. Spending on non-durable goods, such as clothing, was essentially flat.

Income plunged 3.6 percent in January, the biggest drop since January 1993. But it followed a 2.6 percent rise in December, which reflected a rush by companies to pay dividends and bonuses before income taxes increased on top earners.

After-tax income fell 4 percent in January and after

having risen 2.7 percent in December. Part of the January drop reflected higher Social Security taxes.

Americans adjusted to higher taxes by saving less. The savings rate declined to 2.4 percent of after-tax income in January, down from 6.4 percent in December and the lowest in five years.

"The sting of higher taxes hit home at the start of the

Jennifer Lee, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets.

In January, Congress and the White House allowed a temporary 2 percentage point cut in Social Security taxes to expire. That means a person earning \$50,000 a year will have about \$1,000 less to spend in 2013. A household with two high-paid workers will have up to \$4,500 less.

Americans.

Paul Dales, senior U.S. economist at Capital Economics, said that spending growth in the first three months of this year could slow to just half of the 2.1 percent rate of increase seen in the October-December quarter. Consumer spending drives nearly 70 percent of economy activity.

A better job market may help offset some of the pain from the tax increase later this year.

Employers have added an average of 200,000 jobs a month from November through January. That was up from about 150,000 in the previous three months. And a drop in weekly applications for unemployment benefits suggests employers may have stepped up hiring further in February.

Sustained hiring, along with increases in home construction and business investment, could also support growth at a crucial time. The federal government is facing the automatic spending cuts that kick in Friday. If the cuts remain in place for an extended period, they could crimp growth. □



A woman uses an ATM machine in downtown Pittsburgh. U.S. consumers increased spending modestly in January but cut back on major purchases that signal confidence in the economy.

(AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

year. This will cool spending in the next few months before consumers adjust to higher rates," predicted

Lawmakers and the Obama administration also agreed to let income tax rates rise on top-earning

Heineken heir de Carvalho to take board job

TOBY STERLING

Associated Press

AMSTERDAM (AP) — A grandson of Freddy Heineken, the man who built the Dutch brewer into an international beer giant, will be the first of a new generation of Heineken heirs to take a place on the board of the brewer's holding company.

Alexander de Carvalho, 28, is the oldest son of Heineken's daughter, Charlene de Carvalho.

He is to be approved to a four-year term on the board of Heineken Holding NV, starting in April, the company said Friday. The Heineken family controls the holding company, which in turn controls Heineken NV. That structure lets the family retain a veto over Heineken's corporate decisions with just a 25 per-

cent economic stake.

De Carvalho is a Harvard graduate with dual British and Dutch nationality. He currently works at private equity firm Lion Capital, after an earlier stint at Bank Gutmann in Austria.

Heineken was founded in 1864 by his great-great grandfather, Gerard Adriaan Heineken. Gerard Adriaan brewed the first "Heineken" labeled beer brewed in 1871. The company grew and eventually passed hands to his son, Henry Pierre Heineken, who kept it in business through the Great Depression. But Freddy Heineken has been the driving force behind the company's great international expansion.

When he joined in 1941, it was no longer majority-owned by the Heineken family, and within several

years Freddy had created the holding structure in order to regain control.

An astute businessman, he saw the potential of the brand and understood an imported European beer could command a premium price in the United States.

Heineken grew to become the most popular foreign beer in the U.S., a place it held until the 2000s, when it was eclipsed by Corona. Meanwhile Heineken has continued to expand via acquisitions and is now the third-largest brewer globally, behind Budweiser-owner AB InBev of Belgium and SABMiller of Britain.

It sells dozens of beers in addition to the flagship brand, including Amstel, Sol, Desperados, Tecate, Strongbow, Murphy's, Newcastle, Birra Moretti, Cruzcampo,

and Tiger, among others.

Freddy Heineken retired as CEO of Heineken NV in 1989, then as chairman of Heineken Holding in 1995, and Heineken's strategy has been directed by non-family members since then — though they must approve major decisions with the holding company. Freddy Heineken died in 2002.

Now, the Heineken family's stake is kept within a holding company called L'Arche Green NV, which has a stake of 51.1 percent in Heineken Holding. Charlene de Carvalho holds 88.5 percent of L'Arche Green.

Ms. Carvalho has not taken any public role in guiding Heineken. Alexander de Carvalho's job at Heineken Holding is non-executive for the time being. □

Stocks close higher despite looming budget cuts

MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — An encouraging manufacturing report nudged the U.S. stock market higher Friday, giving it a slight gain for the week, even as a deadline for avoiding sweeping government spending cuts loomed.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 35.17 points, or 0.3 percent, to close at 14,089.66.

It was down as much as 117 points in early trading but recovered following news that U.S. manufacturing expanded in February at the fastest pace since June 2011. The Institute for Supply Management said its manufacturing index reached 54.2, up from January's reading of 53.1. Any reading above 50 signals growth.

President Barack Obama summoned congressional leaders to the White House for a meeting aimed at avoiding the \$85 billion in across-the-board spending cuts set to kick in Friday. The cuts are part of a 10-year, \$1.5 trillion deficit reduction plan that was designed to be so distasteful to both Democrats and Republicans that they would be forced to drum up a longer-term budget deal.

Any agreement between the White House and Congress on the spending cuts could drive the market up next week, regardless of

whether investors consider it a good deal or not, said Stephen Carl, head equity trader at The Williams Capital Group in New York.

"The lack of clarity is the problem," he said. "I think it will be a positive for the market just as long as there's concrete news."

In other Friday trading, the Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 3.52 points, or 0.2 percent, to 1,518.20. The Nasdaq composite gained 9.55 points, 0.3 percent, to 3,169.74.

All three indexes ended higher for the week: The Dow rose 0.6 percent, the S&P 500 and Nasdaq each rose about 0.2 percent.

The Dow came within 15 points of its record close of 14,164 on Thursday before sliding back and ending the day lower.

Oil and gas companies fell Friday as the price of crude sank to its lowest level of the year.

Halliburton, Peabody Energy and other energy stocks were among the biggest losers in the S&P 500. Benchmark U.S. crude oil dropped below \$91 a

barrel.

Americans' incomes fell 3.6 percent in January, the worst one-month drop in 20 years, the Commerce Department said Friday. U.S. consumers increased spending modestly in January but cut back on major purchases. The report suggests that the expiration of tax cuts on Jan. 1 may have made Americans more cautious.

Unemployment across the 17 European Union countries that use the euro currency hit a record 11.9 percent during January. That drove money into U.S. Treasuries, pushing their prices up and their yields down. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 1.85 percent from 1.88 percent late Thursday. Among other stocks making big moves:

— Gap added 95 cents to \$33.87. The clothing retailer said late Thursday that its quarterly profits jumped 61 percent, topping analysts' estimates, helped by better sales at its Old Navy stores. Gap also raised its

better sales in the U.S. helped offset weakness abroad, particularly China and Canada.

— Groupon jumped 13 percent following news that CEO Andrew Mason was fired. The online deals



A pair of specialists work at a post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Friday, March 1, 2013. Stocks edged higher on Wall Street, closing out a volatile week, as an upturn in manufacturing outweighed the threat of looming cuts to government spending. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

quarterly dividend to 15 cents.

— Best Buy Co. rose 75 cents to \$17.16 after the consumer electronics retailer said that its fourth-quarter loss narrowed as

company's stock plunged 24 percent Thursday after the company delivered a weak revenue forecast for the current quarter. Its stock gained 57 cents to \$5.11 □

AIG severs final bailout link with Treasury

M. CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — The

Treasury Department has sold its remaining warrants in American International Group Inc., severing its final financial link to the insurance company that got

the government's biggest bailout of the 2008 financial crisis.

Treasury received approximately \$25 million for the warrants, which it sold back to AIG. Warrants give the purchaser the right to buy stock at a guaranteed

price.

AIG President Robert Benmosche said in a statement Friday that the sale means "we are turning the final page on America's assistance to AIG."

Treasury in December had sold the last of its stock in

AIG. The government has recovered the \$182 billion in support it provided plus receiving an additional \$22.7 billion.

The New York company became the focus of much public anger over the bailout. □

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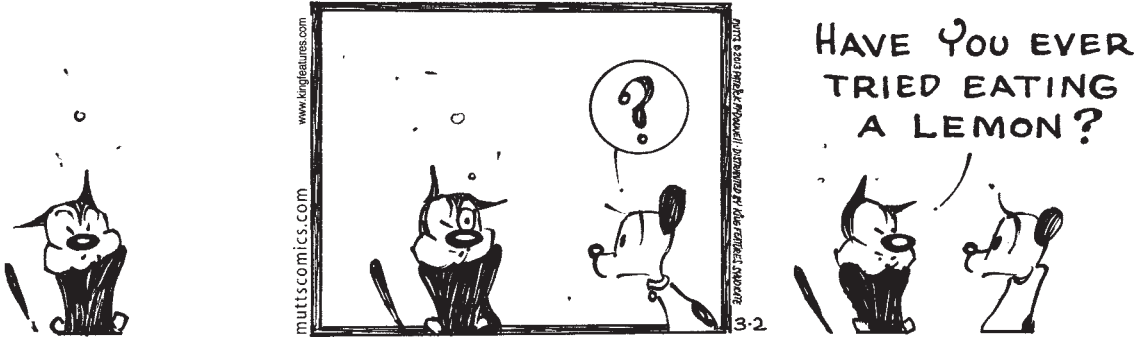
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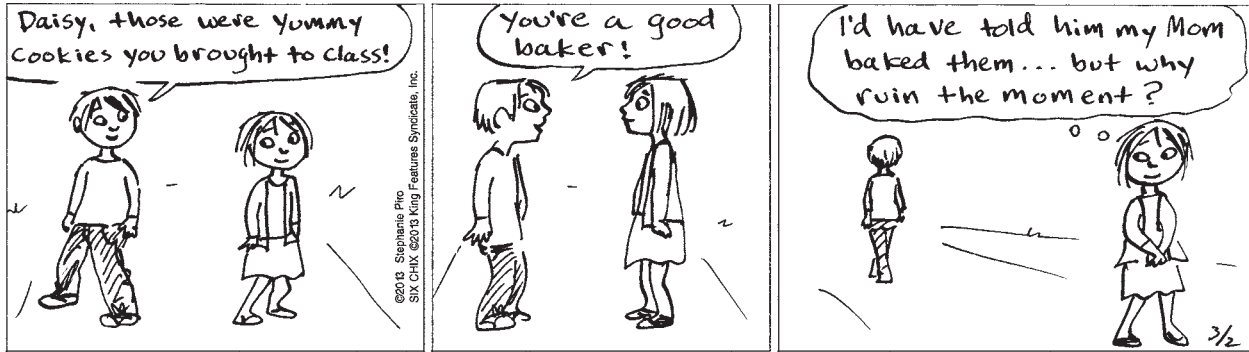


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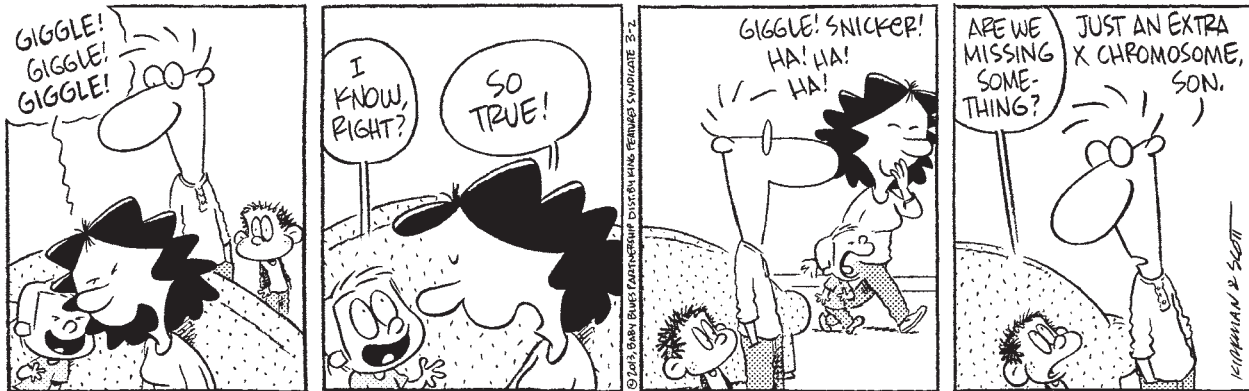
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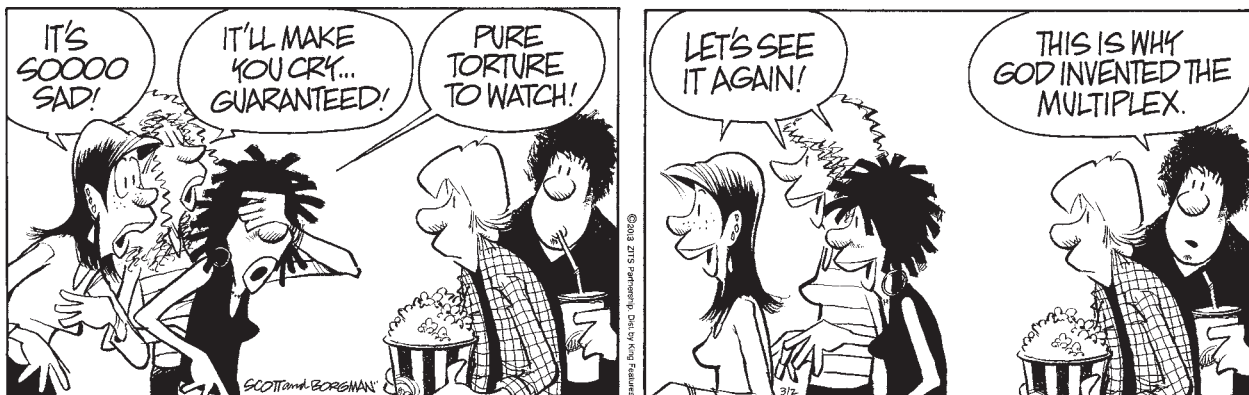
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Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

					2		1	
		7	6		1			5
	2			4				
	9						8	3
		6				7		
8	1						2	
				5			4	
3			1		6	5		
	8		7					

Difficulty Level ★★ ★★

3/02

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

1	2	4	3	6	9	7	8	5
5	8	3	7	4	2	1	9	6
7	9	6	1	8	5	2	3	4
4	3	2	9	7	6	8	5	1
6	1	5	8	2	3	9	4	7
8	7	9	4	5	1	3	6	2
2	4	7	6	9	8	5	1	3
3	6	8	5	1	7	4	2	9
9	5	1	2	3	4	6	7	8

ACROSS

- 1 Dustcloths
- 5 Glass fragment
- 10 Part of a three-piece suit
- 14 Test
- 15 Better's card game
- 16 Region
- 17 Additionally
- 18 Angry
- 19 Dishonest one
- 20 Copy; exact reproduction
- 22 Opposed to
- 24 Thirsty
- 25 Compact ; CDs
- 26 Concur
- 29 Stein or Stiller
- 30 Arrive at
- 34 Boggy area
- 35 Witch or ogress
- 36 Install new shoe bottoms
- 37 Flightless bird from Australia
- 38 Hepburn and Meadows
- 40 Curtain holder
- 41 Move around to get comfortable
- 43 "You _ what you eat"
- 44 Male deer
- 45 Great fear
- 46 Monogram for a Roosevelt
- 47 Cobra or rattler
- 48 Embankment
- 50 Edison's initials
- 51 Meantime
- 54 Sacred month for Muslims
- 58 Part of speech
- 59 Dueling sword
- 61 Hardy cabbage
- 62 Arial or Times New Roman
- 63 Homer classic
- 64 Actress Samms
- 65 Singles
- 66 Child's bear
- 67 Precious

DOWN

- 1 Tush

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20					21				22		23			
				24				25						
26	27	28				29				30		31	32	33
34					35				36					
37					38				39				40	
41				42				43			44			
45						46				47				
				48	49				50					
51	52	53							54			55	56	57
58					59		60				61			
62					63						64			
65					66						67			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

3/2/13

Friday's Puzzle Solved

PEA		AGNES		WAYS
AVID		CRAVE		IGET
RIDE		ROPES		SELA
		LEFTOVERS		IDLY
		LOSE		IAN
ESSAYS		ELONGATE		
MUTTS		BLIND		VEX
BARE		RAVES		BERT
EVE		BASIN		TORSO
REWRITES		MANTEL		
		OBI		LIMA
IOTA		OPONENTS		
SHAM		NAIVE		ZOOM
NIKE		ALTER		ASIA
TOED		LEADS		SLY

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3/2/13

- 36 Bread variety
- 38 Birch variety
- 39 Go wrong
- 42 Natural abilities
- 44 Moved furtively
- 46 Girl or woman
- 47 Houston or Donaldson
- 49 Drop in on
- 50 Late
- 51 News, for short
- 52 Lunchtime
- 53 Melody
- 54 Peruse
- 55 Knighted lady
- 56 Soprano Gluck
- 57 Close-at-hand
- 60 eBay offer

Loved Bug: Some insects make good pets

LINDA LOMBARDI
Associated Press

Children are fascinated by insects, but many of us eventually grow out of wanting to catch a firefly and keep it in a jar. For the people who never lose that urge, though, it can lead in directions that might be surprising.

"Roaches actually make really good pets," says Scott Martin of Rockville, Maryland.

Used to skeptics, enthusiasts will explain that not all cockroaches are created equal.

Orin McMonigle is author of more than a dozen books on keeping pet insects, produces a magazine for hobbyists and even has a species of roach named after him. He doesn't like vermin scurrying about his kitchen any more than you do.

"I do not like pest cockroaches, I do not like mosquitoes, I do not like lice, I do not like German cockroaches. I just like the neat ones," says McMonigle, who in fact used to be a licensed pest control operator. "By knowing the difference, I'm able to appreciate the neat ones."

The most common pet roach is the hissing cockroach, 2 to 3 inches (5 to 7.6 centimeters) long. Its name comes from the sound it makes when disturbed, although it may lose that habit when it gets used to being handled. Hissers make a good display not only due to their size, but also because they don't instinctively hide.

If one were to escape, McMonigle says, the only danger would be to the insect itself. Hissing cockroaches can't survive on their own in the typical home, where the temperature and humidity are unsuitable and they can't find food.

"If you let a thousand hissers loose in your house, they're not going to do anything," he says. "There's over 4,000 species of roaches, and only about 25 are classified as pests, and only five of those are any good at it."

A parallel might be to an escape by guinea pigs, he says: Just because they're related to mice doesn't mean they can take up residence in your walls and start breeding.

Hissers aren't the only roaches kept by hobbyists, and McMonigle says there are even species that only exist in captivity. One mutation with white eyes, originally discovered in a deep coal mine, has been bred since the 1940s. Another species that was found only around a cave that was destroyed by mining is extinct in the wild.

If you're still not convinced about roaches, McMonigle notes that their closest relative is an insect that many people love: the praying mantis.

Yen Saw of Katy, Texas, has been keeping mantises for nearly 10 years, since his son got interested in them. "But then he conveniently left the hard work to me and I got hooked," Saw says. With insects, you can breed many generations in a limited space and over a short time. And unlike more conventional pets, they don't just get larger as they grow, but metamorphose through several different forms.

"I love the process of seeing them growing," says Saw.

Owners of some kinds of insects can also observe a natural behavior that might be too gruesome with other pets: predation. Insect keepers typically raise insects to feed their insects — in fact, Martin started out keeping spiders and raising roaches as food, before getting interested in the roaches for their own sake. □

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Researchers marvel at world's deepest sea vents

DAVID McFADDEN

Associated Press

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)

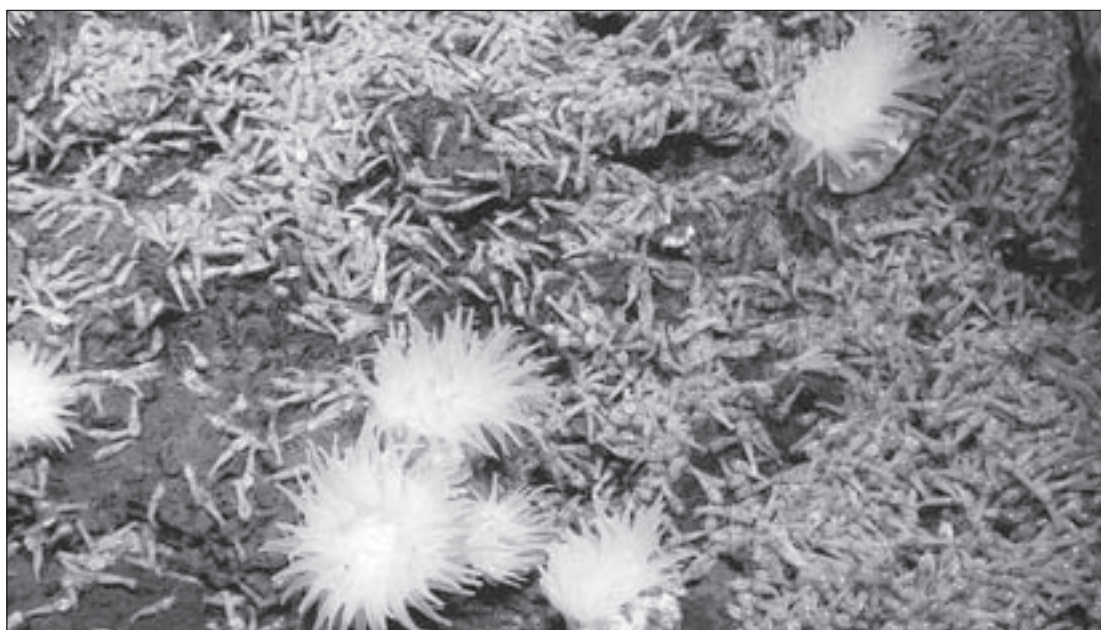
— Researchers steering a remote-controlled submarine around the world's deepest known hydrothermal vents have collected numerous samples from sunless depths of the Caribbean Sea where blazing hot, mineral-rich fluid gushes from volcanic chimneys that look like gnarled tree stumps.

Jon Copley, chief scientist for the expedition of Britain's National Oceanography Center, said Wednesday he believes that laboratory analysis in the coming months will reveal some new life forms that have evolved in the pitch-black vent areas of the Cayman Trough, more than 3 miles (5 kilometers) below the sea's surface between the Cayman Islands and Jamaica.

"From body form alone, I am confident that we have found several new species on this expedition: probably a new species of sea anemone, a few species of bristle worms, and some small crustaceans," Copley said in an email from the RRS James Cook research ship.

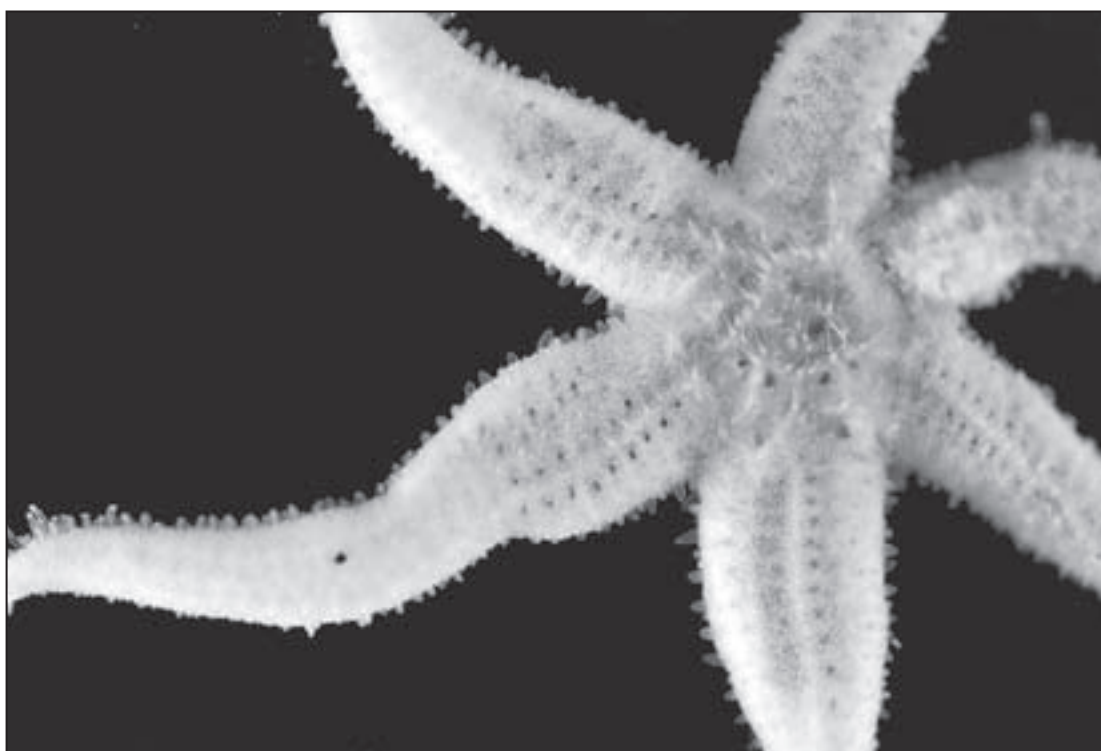
The researchers discovered the deepest known hydrothermal vent field and new organisms in the Caribbean trench nearly three years ago. At a depth of 4,960 meters (16,273 feet), the Beebe Vent Field spews out inky, copper-enriched fluids from hot regions below the sea floor into the frigid depths of the sea.

The undersea vents are among the hottest found anywhere on the planet. The highest sustained temperature that researchers



This 2010 photo released by Britain's National Oceanography Center and made by Isis, a deep-diving remotely operated vehicle, shows sea anemones and vent shrimps at the Beebe hydrothermal vent in the Cayman Trough, more than 3 miles or 5 kilometers below the sea's surface between the Cayman Islands and Jamaica.

Associated Press



This March 2010 picture released by Britain's National Oceanography Center shows a sea star at the site of a hydrothermal vent in the Cayman Trough, more than 3 miles below the sea's surface between the Cayman Islands and Jamaica.

Associated Press

measured was just over 400 Celsius (752 Fahrenheit), said Copley, a marine biologist who works at Britain's University of Southampton. Besides discovering new

life, scientists say the study of the vents could yield a variety of new insights into the geological processes that form and drive them, the physics of so-called "supercritical fluids" — liquids so hot they act like gasses — and the chemical make-

up of the ocean's depths. Copley said studies of the marine life found in the area should also tell scientists more about how animals disperse and evolve in the dark ocean depths, which cover most of our planet.

Another scientist aboard the ship, Andrew David Thaler, a post-doctoral researcher at the Duke University marine laboratory in Beaufort, North Carolina, said there were abundant populations of some species around the vents, particularly an eyeless shrimp dubbed *Rimicaris hybisae* that was discovered by the research team in 2010.

"They're so thick that you often can't even see the rock beneath because they're buried in blankets of shrimp," Thaler said in an email from the James Cook.

Such large amounts of anemones were found at the Beebe site that Thayer said they "look almost like meadows."

Among other things, researchers recorded images of a slender mineral chimney almost 10 meters (33 feet) tall. At another site, a mound of minerals formed by the superheated fluid rushing from the vents rises some 30-meters (98 feet) from the seafloor. They saw brilliant oranges and red colors on the seabed from the bounty of iron, and also blues and greens from copper. The ultra-hot fluid shooting from the vents into the icy cold of the deep ocean creates a smoke-like effect and leaves behind pinnacle-shaped structures of metal ore. At the base of this ecosystem are chemical-eating bacteria that draw on the hydrogen sulphide and methane erupting from the vents to make food. Unlike other living things, the organisms that inhabit the dark vent areas do not depend on photosynthesis, the process by which plants convert sunlight into energy. Instead, chemosynthetic bacteria is the base of the food chain. To see what scavengers might show up, a big slab of pork was dropped into depths some distance away from the vents. Cusk eels about 1.5 meters long and scavenging crustaceans called amphipods made short work of the meat offering, according to the expedition scientists. □

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Bonnie Franklin, 'One Day At a Time' star, dies

FRAZIER MOORE
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Bonnie Franklin, the pert, redheaded U.S. actress whom millions came to identify with for her role as divorced mom Ann Romano on the long-running sitcom "One Day at a Time," has died.

She died Friday at her home in Los Angeles due to complications from pancreatic cancer, family members said. She was 69. Her family had announced she was diagnosed with cancer in September.

Franklin was a veteran stage and television performer before "One Day At a Time" made her a star. The series was groundbreaking for its focus on a young divorced mother seeking independence from a suffocating marriage. It premiered on CBS in December 1975, just five years after the network had balked at having Mary Tyler Moore play a divorcee on her own comedy series. Ann Romano was raising two teenage girls (played by Mackenzie Phillips, already famous for the film "American Graffiti," and a previously unknown Valerie Bertinelli). "One Day At a Time" ran on CBS until 1984, by which time both daughters had grown and married, while Romano had remarried and become a grandmother.

During the first seven of its nine seasons on the air, the show was a Top 20 hit.

"One Day at a Time" dealt with contemporary issues once absent from TV comedies such as premarital sex, birth control, suicide and sexual harassment — issues that had previously been overlooked by TV comedies whose households were usually headed by a husband and wife or, rarely, a widowed parent.

Meanwhile, the series weathered its own crises as Phillips was twice written out of the series to deal with her drug abuse and other personal problems.

Writing in her 2009 memoir "High On Arrival," Phillips remembered Franklin as hardworking and profes-

sional, even a perfectionist. "Bonnie felt a responsibility to the character and always gave a million notes on the scripts," Phillips wrote. "Above all, she didn't want it to be sitcom fluff — she wanted it to deal honestly with the struggles and truths of raising two teenagers as a single mother."

In her 2008 memoir "Losing It," Bertinelli noted that Franklin, just 31 when the show began, wasn't old enough to be her real mother.

Even so, wrote Bertinelli, "within a few days I recognized her immense talent and felt privileged to work with her. ...

She was like a hip, younger complement to my real mom."

The truth of "One Day at a Time" was brought home to Franklin when in 2005 she got together with both TV daughters for a "One Day at a Time" reunion special. She told both actresses, "You are living, in a sense, Ann Romano's life — you are single parents raising teenage kids. That is shock-



This Feb. 26, 2008 file photo shows, from left, Bonnie Franklin, MacKenzie Phillips, Valerie Bertinelli and Pat Harrington of the 1970's television sitcom "One Day at a Time," on the NBC "Today" television program in New York.

Associated Press

ing and terrifying to me." Franklin herself was married for 29 years. Her husband, TV producer Marvin Minoff, died in 2009. Born Bonnie Gail Franklin in California, she entered show business at an early age. She was a child tap dancer and

actress, and a protege of Donald O'Connor, with whom she performed in the 1950s on NBC's "Colgate Comedy Hour."

A decade later, she was appearing on such episodic programs as "Mr. Novak," "Gidget" and "The

Man from U.N.C.L.E." On stage, Franklin was in the original Broadway production of "Applause," for which she received a 1970 Tony Award nomination, and other plays including "Dames at Sea" and "A Thousand Clowns." □

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George Lopez to host Playboy Jazz Festival



George Lopez, the master of ceremonies for this year's Playboy Jazz Festival, poses following a news conference at the Playboy Mansion on Thursday, Feb. 28, 2013 in Los Angeles. The 35th Anniversary Playboy Jazz Festival will be held at the Hollywood Bowl on June 15 and 16.

Associated Press

DERRIK J. LANG
AP Entertainment Writer
LOS ANGELES (AP) — George Lopez is taking over as master of ceremonies of the annual Playboy Jazz Festival. The comedian was announced as the festival's new host Thursday at an event at the Playboy Mansion. "This is iconic," said the former star of the ABC sitcom "George Lopez" and the TBS talk show "Lopez Tonight." "I've never been here be-

fore. I was married for 17 years. I couldn't even have a Playboy air freshener." Bill Cosby previously served as the festival's host for more than 30 years. Cosby was a fixture at the gathering of jazz luminaries since the first festival was held in 1979. Lopez said Cosby called him to give him advice on the gig. His tips included not letting musicians in his dressing room "because they'll eat all your food and drink all your drink," joked Lopez. □

Susan Boyle to make screen acting debut

LONDON (AP) — Susan Boyle is making her big-screen acting debut in a Christmas-themed British period drama. The Scottish singer appears in "The Christmas Candle," a story of angels and wishes set in an English village in the 1890s. Boyle's role has not been disclosed. In a statement, Boyle said she was enjoying filming and "everyone on set is a delight to work with." The movie also stars British actors Lesley Manville, John Hannah and Susan Barks, who recently played Eponine in "Les Misérables." It is due for release later this year. A shy church volunteer from a small Scottish village, Boyle became a global sensation in 2009



In this March 27, 2012 file photo, Susan Boyle performs during her musical 'I Dreamed A Dream' at the Theatre Royal in Newcastle, England. Associated Press

after she performed "I Dreamed a Dream" on the television program "Britain's Got Talent." She has since sold millions of records around the world. □



This publicity image released by History shows Diogo Morcaldo as Jesus, center, being baptized by Daniel Percival, as John, in a scene from "The Bible," premiering Sunday, March 3 at 8 p.m. EST on History.

Associated Press

Husband and wife behind 'The Bible' miniseries

DAVID BAUDER
AP Television Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — Mark Burnett was taken aback by the scale of what his wife, actress Roma Downey, had in mind when she suggested over tea one morning four years ago that they make a television miniseries based on the Bible. "Momentarily, I think he thought I'd lost my mind," Downey recalled. "He went out on his bicycle and he prayed on it and he came back and said, 'You know what, I think it's a good idea. I think we should do it together.' We shook hands and haven't looked back." The series debuts on History Sunday at 8 p.m. EST, the first of five two-hour chunks that will air each weekend. The finale airs on Easter Sunday. Different stories in the Bible have been Hollywood fodder for years. Burnett, the prolific producer behind "Survivor" and "The Voice," said no one had tried to tie it all together and use modern computer graphics to bring images like Moses parting the Red Sea to life on screen. Instead of being all-encompassing, they tried to concentrate on stories in depth and on characters who would emotionally engage the audience. The

first episode illustrates the wisdom of that approach: it flounders at the start with a discussion about the world's creation but becomes more gripping when the emphasis turns to the lives of Abraham and Moses. Burnett said he believes there's a growing "Biblical illiteracy" among young people. "It's like saying you never heard of Macbeth or King Lear," he said. "In school, you have to know a certain amount of Shakespeare, but no Bible. So there's got to be a way to look at it from a pure literature point of view. If it wasn't for the Bible, arguably Shakespeare wouldn't have written those stories." Downey, the former star of "Touched By an Angel," said she wanted to be part of something that would glorify God. After pitching their idea to several networks, Burnett and Downey found a fit with Nancy Dubuc, History's president and general manager. She likes the challenge of ideas that seem unwieldy. History made the 2010 miniseries "America the Story of Us," which was a big hit, and 2012's "Mankind the Story of All of Us," which wasn't. Last spring's miniseries on

the Hatfields and McCoys was an eye-opening success. Burnett and Downey have been building anticipation for "The Bible" by previewing it at churches and for religious leaders. Rick Warren, Joel Osteen and Cardinal Donald Wuerl, archbishop of Washington, have all endorsed the work. "The faith community is going to sample it, unquestionably," Dubuc said. "Whether they stay or go remains with the TV gods. Our job has been to present this as an epic tale of adventure." History's own campaign is not targeting a religious audience, emphasizing some of the dramatic scenes to suggest that audiences won't be preached to. The screening that Downey and Burnett have sweated the most was when their teenage children showed it to some friends. "We knew that we could make it heartfelt," Downey said. "We knew we could make it faithful. But we wanted to be sure that we could make it cool." Downey spent nearly half of 2012 in Morocco supervising filming, beginning in the cold of February and ending in the blistering heat of July. □

Ben Bernanke, Hippie



PAUL KRUGMAN
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We're just a few weeks away from a milestone I suspect most of Washington would like to forget: the start of the Iraq war. What I remember from that time is the utter impenetrability of the elite pro-war consensus. If you tried to point out that the Bush administration was obviously cooking up a bogus case for war, one that didn't bear even casual scrutiny; if you pointed out that the risks and likely costs of war were huge; well, you were dismissed as ignorant and irresponsible.

It didn't seem to matter what evidence critics of the rush to war presented. Anyone who opposed the war was, by definition, a foolish hippie. Remarkably, that judgment didn't change even after everything the war's critics predicted came true.

Those who cheered on this disastrous venture continued to be regarded as "credible" on national security (why is John McCain still a fixture of the Sunday talk shows?) while those who opposed it remained suspect.

And, even more remarkably, a very similar story has played out over the past three years, this time about economic policy. Back then, all the important people decided that an unrelated war was an appropriate response to a terrorist attack; three years ago, they all decided that fiscal austerity was the appropriate response to an economic crisis caused by runaway bankers, with the supposedly imminent danger from budget deficits playing the role once played by Saddam's alleged weapons of mass destruction.

Now, as then, this consensus has seemed impenetrable to counterarguments, no matter how well grounded in evidence. And now, as then, leaders of the consensus continue to be regarded as credible even though they've been wrong about everything (why do people keep treating Alan Simpson as a wise man?) while critics of the consensus are regarded as foolish hippies even though all their predictions – about interest rates, about inflation, about the dire effects of austerity – have come true.

So here's my question: Will it make any difference that Ben Bernanke has now joined the ranks of the hippies?

This week Bernanke delivered testimony that should have made everyone in Washington

sit up and take notice.

True, it wasn't really a break with what he has said in the past or, for that matter, with what other Federal Reserve officials have been saying, but the Fed chairman spoke more clearly and forcefully on fiscal policy than ever before – and what he said, translated from Fedpeak into plain English, was that the Beltway obsession with deficits is a terrible mistake.

First of all, he pointed out that the budget picture just isn't very scary, even over the medium run: "The federal debt held by the public (including that held by the Federal Reserve) is projected to remain roughly 75 percent of GDP through much of the current decade."

He then argued that, given the state of the economy, we're currently spending too little, not too much: "A substantial portion of the recent progress in lowering the deficit has been concentrated in near-term budget changes, which, taken together, could create a significant headwind for the economic recovery."

Finally, he suggested that austerity in a depressed economy may well be self-defeating even in purely fiscal terms: "Besides having adverse effects on jobs and incomes, a slower recovery would lead to less actual deficit reduction in the short run for any given set of fiscal actions."

So the deficit is not a clear and present danger, spending cuts in a depressed economy are a terrible idea and premature austerity doesn't make sense even in budgetary terms.

Regular readers may find these propositions familiar, since they're pretty much what I and other progressive economists have been saying all along. But we're irresponsible hippies. Is Ben Bernanke? (Well, he has a beard.)

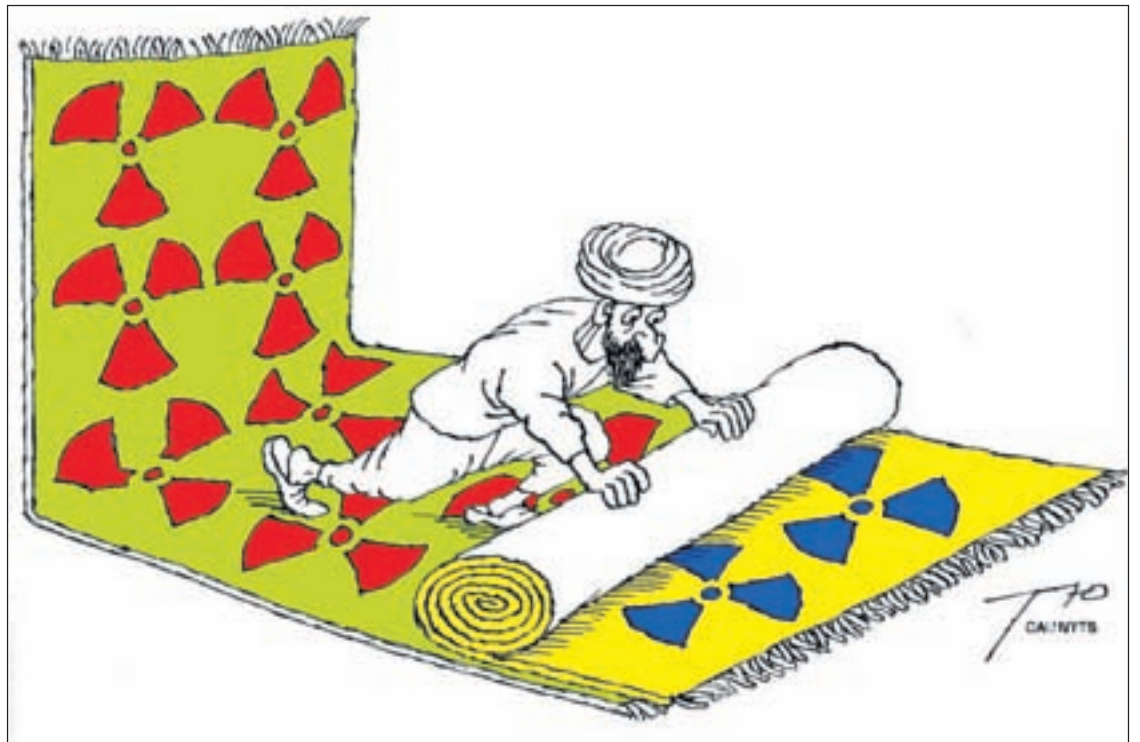
The point is not that Bernanke is an unimpeachable source of wisdom; one hopes that the collapse of Alan Greenspan's reputation has put an end to the practice of deifying Fed chairmen.

Bernanke is a fine economist, but no more so than, say, Columbia's Joseph Stiglitz, a Nobel laureate and legendary economic theorist whose vocal criticism of our deficit obsession has nonetheless been ignored.

No, the point is that Bernanke's apostasy may help undermine the argument from authority – nobody who matters disagrees! – that has made the elite obsession with deficits so hard to dislodge.

And an end to deficit obsession can't come a moment too soon. Right now Washington is focused on the idiocy of the sequester, but this is only the latest episode in an unprecedented run of declines in public employment and government purchases that have crippled our economy's recovery.

A misguided elite consensus has led us into an economic quagmire, and it's time for us to get out. □



The Learning Virtues



DAVID BROOKS
© 2013 New York Times

Jin Li grew up in China during the Cultural Revolution. When the madness was over, the Chinese awoke to discover that far from overleaping the West, they were "economically destitute and culturally barren." This inspired an arduous catch-up campaign. Students were recruited to learn what the West had to offer.

Li was one of the students. In university, she abandoned Confucian values, which were then blamed for Chinese backwardness, and embraced German culture. In her book, "Cultural Foundations of Learning: East and West," she writes that Chinese students at that time were aflame – excited by the sudden openness and the desire to catch up.

Li wound up marrying an American, moved to the States and became a teacher. She was stunned. American high school students had great facilities but didn't seem much interested in learning. They giggled in class and goofed around.

This contrast between the Chinese superstudent and the American slacker could be described with the usual tired stereotypes. The Chinese are robots who unimaginatively memorize facts to score well on tests. The Americans are spoiled brats who love TV but don't know how to work. But Li wasn't satisfied with those clichés. She has spent her career, first at Harvard and now

at Brown, trying to understand how Asians and Westerners think about learning.

The simplest way to summarize her findings is that Westerners tend to define learning cognitively while Asians tend to define it morally. Westerners tend to see learning as something people do in order to understand and master the external world. Asians tend to see learning as an arduous process they undertake in order to cultivate virtues inside the self. You can look at the slogans on university crests to get a glimpse of the difference. Western mottos emphasize knowledge acquisition. Harvard's motto is "Truth." Yale's is "Light and truth." The University of Chicago's is "Let knowledge grow from more to more; and so be human life enriched."

Chinese universities usually take Confucian sayings that emphasize personal elevation. Tsinghua's motto is "Strengthen self ceaselessly and cultivate virtue to nurture the world." Nanjing's motto is "Be sincere and hold high aspirations, learn diligently and practice earnestly."

When Li asked Americans to randomly talk about learning they used words like: thinking, school, brain, discovery, understand and information. Chinese, on the other hand, tended to use phrases common in their culture: learn assiduously, study as if thirsting or hungering, be diligent in one's learning.

In the Western understanding, students come to school with levels of innate intelligence and curiosity. Teachers try to further arouse that curiosity in specific subjects. There's a lot of active learning – going on field trips, building things. There's great emphasis on questioning authority, critical inquiry and sharing ideas in classroom discussion.

In the Chinese understanding, there's less emphasis on innate curiosity or even on specific subject matter. Instead, the learning process itself is the crucial thing. The idea is to perfect the learning virtues in order to become, ultimately, a sage, which is equally

a moral and intellectual state. These virtues include: sincerity (an authentic commitment to the task) as well as diligence, perseverance, concentration and respect for teachers.

In Chinese culture, the heroic scholar may possess less innate intelligence but triumphs over hardship. Li cites the story of the scholar who tied his hair to a ceiling beam so he could study through the night. Every time his head dropped from fatigue, the yank of his hair kept him awake.

Li argues that Westerners emphasize the Aha moment of sudden insight, while Chinese are more likely to emphasize the arduous accumulation of understanding. American high school students tease nerds, while there is no such concept in the Chinese vocabulary. Western schools want students to be proud of their achievements, while the Chinese emphasize that humility enables self-examination. Western students often work harder after you praise them, while Asian students sometimes work harder after you criticize them.

These cultures are surprisingly enduring, Li notes, even with all the cross-pollination that goes on in the world today. Each has its advantages. I'm mostly struck by the way the intellectual and moral impulses are fused in the Chinese culture and separated in the West.

It's easy to see historically why this came about. Hellenic culture emphasized skeptical scientific inquiry. With us, religion and science have often been at odds. We're a diverse society, so it's easier to teach our common academic standards in the classroom and relegate our diverse moralities to the privacy of the home.

I'd just note that cultures that do fuse the academic and the moral, like Confucianism or Jewish Torah study, produce these awesome motivation explosions. It might be possible to champion other moral/academic codes to boost motivation in places where it is absent. □

Modernist cooking creates surge of science shops

MICHELE KAYAL
Associated Press

Milk, eggs, cheese, tomatoes, transglutaminase, sodium citrate... It may not sound like the last grocery list you wrote, but the growing appeal of so-called modernist cooking — a science-tastic take on haute cuisine — has more home cooks adding laboratory-worthy ingredients and gizmos to their shopping. And that, of course, has spawned a mini-niche of online companies selling everything you need to play culinary alchemist at home. At least a half-dozen companies now sell once-elusive ingredients like sodium citrate to emulsify cheeses into creamy sauces, "popping sugar" that explodes in your mouth, and "meat glue" — transglutaminase — to create dishes like tilapia spaghetti (that is, "spaghetti" made from tilapia). Alongside traditional equipment like cookie sheets and hand mixers, you can purchase pipettes to create "caviar" from various liquids or smoke torches that infuse smoke flavor into dishes without heating them up. Even big retailers are getting in on the action. Williams-Sonoma carries machines known as "sous vide," which cook using a warm water bath. Amazon offers ingredients such as agar agar (to make gelatins) and xanthan gum (to thicken sauces), as well as whipping siphons to create foams and digital scales that allow the home chef to weigh down to the hundredth of a gram. How's that for precision cooking? Some of these sites exist solely to service your inner Ferran Adria, the Spanish chef hailed as the father of modernist cooking. Chris Anderson, a software developer by trade, launched Modernist Pantry with his wife two years ago when he couldn't find the ingredients needed for his culinary dabbling. Today, Modernist Pantry carries more than 300 ingredients in quantities tailored to the home kitchen, as well as equipment. The site draws 60 percent of its business



This Thursday, Feb. 21, 2013 photo shows Modernist Pantry co-owners Christopher Anderson and his wife Janie Wang at their home in Eliot, ME.
Associated Press

from home cooks, Anderson says, and sales have increased 10 times since launching. "We sort of just did it initially thinking it was not going to be a full-time business, just a little thing on the side," he says from the company's base in York, Maine. "But within two months we were getting more business than we anticipated. We were doubling our sales every month." He went full time a year ago, and today employs three people. Montreal-based Molecule-R offers do-it-yourself kits for the modernist weekend warrior. Each of the company's three kits contains recipes, pre-measured sachets of the required additives and the equipment to create the recipes. The first kit hit the market in 2009, says business development executive Jennifer MacDonald, and sales since then have at least doubled. Roughly 80 percent of the custom-

ers are home cooks, she says, and they range from children to seniors. "We get families, no joke," she says. "We get a lot of people writing us and saying they



This Thursday, Feb. 21, 2013 photo shows products sold by Modernist Pantry co-owners, Christopher Anderson and Janie Wang, stored in their warehouse in Eliot, ME.
Associated Press

did the arugula spaghetti with their kids. It ranges from children with their parents to people in their 60s doing it." Experimenting with modernist cuisine, sometimes called molecular gastronomy, is the next step in the country's love affair with



This Thursday, Feb. 21, 2013 photo shows flavor spheres created by Modernist Pantry co-owners, Christopher Anderson and Janie Wang, using their spherification products, at home in Eliot, ME.
Associated Press

cooking. In the same way that home cooks emulate what they see on the Food Network, many want to replicate the gels and foams they taste at elite restaurants like Chicago's Alinea and New York's WD-50. Aided by cookbooks such as "Modernist Cuisine at Home," the definitive guide that was published last year, many accomplished home cooks have gained the confidence and incentive to kick their basic skills up a notch. "It's just taking a lot of really good basics and creating something different with them," says Paul Edward, co-founder of the online culinary retailer Chef Rub-

it's just a stock and it has to be a really good one." Barriers to entry are relatively low. Molecule-R kits cost between \$60 and \$120. Chef Rubber customers spend from \$75 to \$150 per visit, Edward says. "It really depends on what you want to do," says Anderson, whose average customer spends \$60 to \$75 per visit. "The major investment is in your time, not in ingredients. But once you get into sous vide you do need a circulator, so there's an entry cost. But most of the techniques don't require that much." Many mainstream professional chefs have appropriated methods from their modernist brethren. For instance, sous vide has been widely adopted as an excellent and nearly foolproof way to cook meat. And while many if not most of these techniques will remain too esoteric for the average home cook, certain practical elements — using the microwave to steam fish, using additives to emulsify the sauce in macaroni and cheese — may filter into home kitchens. But probably not any time soon.

"There are things like that that are modernist cuisine techniques," says Susan Edgerley, dining editor at The New York Times. "Some of those are applicable and easy and practical and some of them aren't. There's an intersection of modernist cuisine and the home cook. I just don't know how big it is." □